MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

24 DECEMBER 1981

Israel

Nonconfidence Motion Defeated -- Jerusalem radio reported that the Knesset rejected the Shinuy-sponsored nonconfidence motion by 57 votes to 47. In a speech during the Knesset debate on the motion, broadcast by IDF radio, Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir defended the government's reaction to the U.S. suspension of the strategic cooperation agreement by asserting that Israel was obligated to speak sincerely to the United States, point out its "mistake" and demand that it be corrected. He said Israel had been deeply hurt by the U.S. move and that it could never accept being punished after every difference of opinion with the United States. Elsewhere in his speech, Shamir emphasized that the U.S.-Israeli friendship is firm and permanent and will continue to survive "crises" between the two countries.

Ford Letter -- According to HA'ARETZ, in September 1975 former U.S. President Gerald Ford gave Yitzhaq Rabin, then prime minister, a secret written commitment that the United States would support a permanent Israeli presence in the Golan Heights. According to sources in Prime Minister Menahem Begin's office, cited by the Jerusalem POST, the existence of the letter was leaked by opposition members in order to prove that there was no need for the Golan Heights Law. However, these sources said that recent U.S. actions cast such "grave doubts" on U.S. credibility that the Golan Heights Law was necessary. They asserted that the Americans are breaking "all sorts" of undertakings and often behave as if they were no more than spokesmen for the Saudis.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Fahd Press Statement, Khaddam Comment -- Riyadh radio reported that in a press statement issued at the conclusion of talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, Saudi Crown Prince and Deputy Prime Minister Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz declared that the Arab nation, particularly Saudi Arabia and Syria, "will not allow" Israel to take over any part of the occupied Arab territories, including the Golan Heights. Prince Fahd said it would be better to use peaceful means to restore Arab rights, but if that was not possible, the Arab leaders must consider other "appropriate measures." Expressing his satisfaction with the Syrian president's visit, Prince Fahd said the main aim had been to restore Arab solidarity and he asserted that all concerned had shown the appropriate "responsibility" in view of present circumstances in the Arab world. Prince Fahd said the Saudi-Syrian talks did not touch on the Saudi peace plan. According to a later SPA report on the statement, Prince Fahd asserted that, should all other methods fail, Arab land must be retrieved by the same methods by which it was "usurped."

In a statement to AFP, Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam described President al-Asad's visit to Saudi Arabia as "excellent," Damascus radio reported. He added that an atmosphere of complete understanding prevailed during the talks.

Al-Asad Visit to Kuwait -- KUNA reported that President al-Asad left Kuwait after a 1-day visit during which he held talks with Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah on current Arab developments and bilateral relations. According to Damascus radio, the talks were held in an atmosphere of mutual understanding. WAKH later reported Al-Asad's arrival in Bahrain for talks with Bahraini Amir Shaykh Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah.

Gulf Affairs

Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Assistant Secretary General Ibrahim as-Subhi met in Manama with Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah and Interior Minister Muhammad ibn Khalifah Al Khalifah, WAKH reported. After the meetings As-Subhi revealed that the GCC Secretariat is working on a Gulf security plan in view of the recently discovered sabotage plot in Bahrain, which, he claimed, was aimed at the entire Gulf region.

Citing AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ, WAKH later reported an announcement by the Bahraini interior minister that more than 90 percent of the members of the sabotage group are under the control of the authorities. He said interrogation had proved that they were trained in Iran.

Lebanon

Ba'th Party Member Killed -- The Voice of Lebanon reported that Muhammad Haydar, an aide to the regional secretary of the Syrian Ba'th Party in Lebanon, was shot and killed in Beirut. It said a member of the Progressive Socialist Party is suspected of committing the murder.

Haddad Speech -- In a speech broadcast by the Voice of Hope radio, Christian militia leader Maj Sa'd Haddad demanded that the Syrians leave Lebanon because the Lebanese are capable of ensuring their own security, while Syria cannot establish security even in its own country. He warned Lebanese citizens to buy Lebanese flags to fly over their houses to identify themselves when the Christian militia forces begin military action against the Syrians and "swindlers." Asserting that such military action is bound to come, Haddad said he hoped it would begin soon.

Libya

According to Tripoli radio, thousands of Benghazi citizens staged a demonstration to denounce the U.S. "plots" against the Libyan Arab people and their leaders. The radio broadcast a statement issued by the demonstrators denouncing the United States as the "enemy of mankind" which is behind all attempts to humiliate and insult the Arab people.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

In an interview with Iraqi television reported by INA, Iraqi Chief of Staff Gen 'Abd al-Jabbar Shanshal said Iranian battlefield casualties from 11 to 18 December amounted to 11,000 dead and 10,000 wounded. He asserted that the Iranians failed to gain any ground during their offensive in the Gilan-e Gharb and Sumar regions and that Iraqi forces still hold the positions they reached in September 1980. Shanshal admitted that the Iranians took a village in the Susangerd region during their late November offensive, but said the victory was only useful for propaganda purposes. The daily Iraqi Armed Forces communique carried by INA reported a large-scale attack in the Gilan-e Gharb and Sumar areas in which it claimed 768 Iranians were killed.

On the other hand, battle reports carried by PARS and Tehran radio continued to report Iranian victories and Iraqi retreats on all fronts.

Afghanistan

Kabul radio reported that Afghanistan and Bulgaria signed a friendship and cooperation agreement during a visit to Sofia by President Babrak Karmal.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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BAHRAIN

GCC OFFICIAL MEETS INTERIOR, FOREIGN MINISTERS

GF232009 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1900 GMT 23 Dec 81

[Text] Manama, 23 Dec (WAKH) -- Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah met today with the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] assistant secretary general for political affairs, Ibrahim Hamud as-Subhi. Bahraini Interior Minister Muhammad ibn Khalifah Al Khalifah also met with Mr As-Subhi.

After the two meetings Mr As-Subhi said the reason for his visit is to discuss with Bahraini officials the sabotage plot uncovered in Bahrain which was aimed at undermining the security and stability of the region. He said during the visit he will also discuss what the GCC Secretariat can do under current conditions in the region, as well as the views of officials on meetings of the foreign, defense and interior ministers which will be held in Riyadh early next year.

Mr As-Subhi said he and the Bahraini interior minister discussed the latest developments of the security investigation of the sabotage group discovered in Bahrain. He affirmed that the GCC countries are anxious to offer all kinds of assistance and support for Bahrain in confronting any attempt to shake Bahrain's security and peace, which are part of those of the entire region and its countries.

Mr As-Subhi called for a studied and accurate security plan that can be approved by all CCC countries and implemented as soon as possible.

He warned of the intentions of countries which are trying to undermine the GCC countries and to disrupt their peace. He said: "The plot uncovered recently was not aimed at Bahrain alone but at the security of the entire region."

GCC Assistant Secretary General As-Subhi said during their meeting in February the GCC interior ministers will formulate a new conception to deal with all countries in the region. He said: "We cannot define a certain line, but the danger is there and it is approaching the countries of the region. Quick and positive action must be taken."

Mr As-Subhi expressed hope that the GCC countries will put forward a joint formula to contain all threats to the region. He stressed that the security agreement recently signed by Saudi Arabia and Bahrain can be a basis for security cooperation and can be used profitably. He pointed out that the GCC Secretariat is currently studying various ideas of the GCC countries to put forward a unified and comprehensive security agreement.

Mr As-Subhi called for a Gulf move on the Arab level to explain the dimensions of the sabotage plot in Bahrain and its threat to the countries of the region.

Ibrahim as-Subhi left Manama for Muscat this evening on his current tour of GCC countries.

Comments on Gulf Security

GF231556 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0810 GMT 23 Dec 81

[Text] Manama, 23 Dec (WAKH) -- Ibrahim as-Subhi, the assistant secretary general of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC], has announced that the GCC Secretariat General is currently discussing appropriate measures to be taken to maintain the security and stability of Bahrain after the recent discovery of the sabotage network.

In a statement to the Bahraini newspaper AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ Published today, the GCC assistant secretary general said the upcoming GCC interior ministers meeting in Riyadh will be of peculiar significance in view of the events and sabotage plots aimed at states in the region -- developments which call for clear examination and coordination of security arrangements.

The GCC assistant secretary general affirmed: We do not want to threaten anybody's interests nor do we want anybody's guardianship or protection. We seek adequate protection for our countries' interests in the region by means of coordination of defense and security and by locating any existing gaps and detecting points of weakness.

Ibrahim as-Subhi noted there are many things that require joint security coordination on the domestic level. He proposed rapid exchange of information, clear passport records to prevent counterfeiting, and scrupulous control of sea and air ports and borders of the countries of the region.

On the nature and extent of the threats to the countries of the region, Ibrahim as-Subhi said: "Because of its strategic location and its immense resources, the region is subject to the many ambitions of foreign powers which are trying to impose their mandate on us. We therefore have to show these powers that responsibility for the security and stability of our countries is ours alone."

He said: if ambitious countries believe that disrupting security and stability and overthrowing governments will facilitate a foothold in this region, they are wrong because the wheel of history keeps turning and we are capable of safeguarding our own interests.

He pointed out that his visit to Bahrain was assigned by the GCC Secretariat so that he can meet Bahraini officials to study the latest developments regarding the group of saboteurs which was uncovered and which planned to create havoc and confusion and to menace the security and stability of all countries of the region. He said he will visit other countries in the GCC to study the views of their officials on what can be done to confront such incidents.

Referring to the importance of the upcoming GCC interior and defense ministers meetings, Mr as-Subhi said the defense ministers meeting will implement the resolutions of the Supreme Council session held in Riyadh last month. It will discuss the recommendations of the chiefs of staff and determine priorities in implementing them.

On the foreign ministers meeting, he said: "There are many issues to be discussed on the [Gulf] economic agreement and on what happened recently in Bahrain. Discussion of these issues will include diagnosing the reasons for and sources of danger menacing the region and laying down the bases for warding off these dangers, depending on our intrinsic strength."

SYRIAN PRESIDENT AL-ASAD ARRIVES 24 DEC

GF240920 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0800 GMT 24 Dec 81

[Text] Manama, 24 Dec (WAKH) -- Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad arrived in Manama from Kuwait today on a brief visit to Bahrain within his tour of a number of area countries. Foremost among those who received him was the amir of Bahrain, His Highness Shaykh Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah. He was also received by His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn Isa Al Khalifah, heir apparent, acting prime minister and commander in chief of the Bahrain Defense Force, and a number of senior Bahraini military and civilian officials.

During his visit, President al-Asad will hold talks with the amir of Bahrain dealing with bilateral relations, current Arab and international developments and the Israeli enemy's latest decision to annex the Golan Heights to the Zionist entity.

The Syrian president is accompanied by 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign affairs minister; Faruq ash-Shar', minister of state for foreign affairs; and other Syrian officials.

KUWAIT

SYRIAN PRESIDENT AL-ASAD CONCLUDES VISIT

Talks With Officials

LD231932 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 23 Dec 81

[Text] Official talks between the Kuwaiti and Syrian sides were held at 1730 at As-Salam Palace. The Kuwaiti side was led by his highness the amir while the Syrian side was led by His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad.

The minister of the affairs of the amir's office stated at the end of the talks that they primarily centered on the current development of the Arab situation, bilateral relations and the means for consolidating these relations as well as issues of mutual interest. He said the talks were held in a friendly atmosphere characterized by a spirit of fraternity and understanding.

Departure 24 Dec

LD240808 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0750 GMT 24 Dec 81

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 24 Dec (KUNA) -- The Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad ended his visit today to Kuwait; and then left the country. He was seen off at the airport by the amir, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah, who had talks with him last night. It was officially stated that the talks dealt with current Arab developments and with bilateral relations. It is believed the talks concentrated on Israel's annexation of the Golan.

SAUDI ARABIA

PRINCE FAHD URGES PATIENCE ON GOLAN ISSUE

LD231724 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1545 GMT 23 Dec 81

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 23 Dec (SPA) -- Deputy Prime Minister and Crown Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz has expressed his satisfaction with the visit of Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to the Saudi Arabian Kingdom and the Gulf. He also expressed the hope that the visit will mark the beginning of further exchanges of visits among the leaders of the Arab nation so that when the Fes summit conference resumes its work the results will be excellent.

In a statement to the press on Syrian President Al-Asad's departure from Riyadh Airport today, Prince Fahd said that the visit was important and will have and extremely good effect.

Replying to a question about the nature of the solution to the problem if the international community fails to force Israel to retract its decision on the annexation of the Golan, Prince Fahd said the UN Security Council will convene on 5 January for this purpose. Therefore, we must not anticipate events and must wait to see what new resolution the council will adopt.

Prince Fahd spoke of the worldwide denunciation of the recent Israeli decision to annex the Golan and said this denunciation in itself is an extremely good thing, and was no easy matter to secure. Furthermore, he said, Israel cannot ignore such a worldwide denunciation. Let us wait, he said.

Prince Fahd affirmed that the Arabs do not want war but want an honorable peace which will restore undiminished their full legitimate rights. This, he said, is the peace we talk about. This is an extremely logical thing. Should matters become complicated and no other solutions be found, then the land will have to be retrieved by the same method as it was usurped.

On the French attitude toward the Middle East question and all the talk that revolved around it recently, Prince Fahd said that from his meetings with the French president and foreign minister, who have both visited the kingdom, he has reached the conclusion that no change has taken place in the French attitude toward the Arab cause. On the contrary, he said, France gives absolute support for the cause. He added that recent news agency reports about the situation might have been distorted somewhat.

UAE

CHADIAN ENVOY DELIVERS MESSAGE FROM GOUKOUNI

GF191323 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 19 Dec 81

[Text] President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan has received a written message from Chadian President Oueddei Goukouni on strengthening bilateral relations. The message was received by Surur ibn Muhammad, chief of the president's office, during his meeting this morning with Mahamat Fakir, the Chadian president's envoy, who arrived in the UAE this morning.

Comments on Chad Situation

GF211452 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1145 GMT 21 Dec 81

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 21 Dec (WAKH) -- Mahamat Fakir, the Chadian president's envoy and state secretary of animal husbandry, has stressed that the situation in Chad is now moving toward full stability since government troops defeated the forces of former Defense Minister Hissein Habre in the eastern areas of Chad.

In a statement in Abu Dhabi before his departure, he noted that the war over the last 9 months caused the deaths of more than 4,000 Chadian troops on both sides and the wounding of about 350 [as received] troops in addition to a large number of civilians. He indicated that the war led to more than 10,000 Chadian families fleeing to the border area of four neighboring African countries -- Cameroon, Nigeria, Niger and Sudan. He also noted that his government is working to return these refugees to their homeland.

He denied that there are differences among the members of the National Transition Government under the leadership of President Goukouni. He stressed that what some foreign agencies report is "mere lies and imaginative fabrications." He pointed out that the African peace-keeping force which arrived in Chad will leave the country after government troops have gained control of the situation and the Chadian Armed Forces have been rebuilt.

Stressing the restoration of stability in Chad, the Chadian envoy noted that most diplomatic missions have returned to Chad, including the specialized UN organs.

He praised his country's relations with France, terming them positive. He added that France had expressed readiness to pay all the government's administrative expenses and participate in developing education and improving the deteriorating economic situation caused by the civil war. He also said that the French diplomatic mission had returned to Ndjamena as well as the French ambassador.

He described his country's relations with Libya as strong, indicating that there are more than 100,000 Chadians currently living in northern Chad and southern Libya as well as more than 60,000 Libyans living in northern Chad.

He stressed that Sudan and Egypt are committed to stopping aid to Hissein Habre. He said the two countries are not giving any aid, and this will help stabilize the situation in Chad and consequently enable the Chadians to solve their problems themselves.

YAR

VICE PRESIDENT REPORTS ON VISIT TO IRAQ

JN171334 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 Dec 81

[Excerpt] Brother Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces, received at the presidential palace in Al-Hudaydah Vice President 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani upon his return from Baghdad. Brother 'Abd al-Ghani presented to the president of the republic a detailed report on his visit to fraternal Iraq and his meeting with President Saddam Husayn and other Iraqi officials. The meeting was attended by 'Abd al-Karim al-'Arashi, vice president and speaker of the People's Constituent Assembly.

ARMY COMMANDER RETURNS FROM SAUDI ARABIA

JN221907 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 Dec 81

[Text] Lt Col 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Burti, chief of staff of the YAR Armed Forces, returned to San'a' this evening after a 4-day visit to Saudi Arabia. While in Saudi Arabia, the chief of staff had talks wtih Saudi Army officials and conveyed two message from President Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, one to His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and one to Crown Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz. He inspected some military installations and academies in Saudi Arabia.

BRIEFS

NEW KUWAITI AMBASSADOR -- Foreign Minister 'Ali Lufti ath-Thawr today received Ahmad 'Abdallah al-Mubaraki who presented a copy of his credentials as a resident ambassador extraordinaires and penipotentiary for fraternal Kuwait to the YAR. [Text] [San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 19 Dec 81 JN]

PDRY

CHAIRMAN INTERVIEWED ON OMAN, OTHER TOPICS

GF231300 Doha QNA in Arabic 0925 GMT 23 Dec 81

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 23 Dec (QNA) -- Chairman of the PDRY Supreme People's Council Presidium 'Ali Nasir Muhammad noted in an interview published here today that the latest efforts undertaken by the UAE and Kuwait to normalize relations between the PDRY and Oman did not fail. He indicated that the PDRY is ready to discuss differences between the two countries at any time.

In a statement to the UAE paper AL-WAHDAH, the PDRY chairman reiterated the denial that there are Soviet military bases on Suqutra Island in the PDRY.

He stressed that the friendship treaty with Libya and Ethiopia was made in retaliation for the escalation of U.S.-Zionist plans to "liquidate the progressive regimes in the area."

Chairman 'Ali Nasir Muhammad added that the PDRY and Iraq recently agreed to resume diplomatic representation at the ambassadorial level.

He revealed that exploration for oil in the PDRY has shown that oil exists in huge quantities. He noted that so far six producing wells have been drilled, and four major international companies are continuing to explore for oil in various areas of the PDRY.

COOPERATION AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH SYRIAN CP

LD181206 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 17 Dec 81

[Summary] A protocol for bilateral cooperation between the YSP and the Syrian Communist Party [SCP] for 1982-83 was signed on 17 December.

Dr Ahmad 'Abdullah 'abd al-Ilah, secretary of the Central Committee, signed the protocol on behalf of the YSP while (Maurice Khilaybi), member of the SCP Political Bureau, signed on behalf of the Syrian side.

The signing of the agreement follows a visit by an SCP delegation to Democratic Yemen that lasted several days.

In a statement to ANA, (Khilaybi) said the delegation's meeting with Chairman 'Ali Nasir Muhammad was useful. He said Chairman 'Ali Muhammad had stressed the importance of militant and joint cooperation between the two parties and countries and emphasized the effect this would have on the success of the struggle of the Arab nation and on the confrontation with the imperialists and Zionists.

LIBERATION GROUPS HAIL LIBYA'S ANTI-U.S. STAND

EA212106 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 21 Dec 81

[Text] The national liberation movements and progressive parties accredited to Aden have sent a cable of congratulations, support and solidarity to the militant Brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September Revolution. In the cable they hailed the Libyan leader's courageous stand, firmly resisting imperialist and Zionist designs and those of the Arab apostate forces aimed at Balkanizing our Arab homeland, robbing the Palestinian people of their inalienable national rights and effacing the Arab identity of our Arab Egyptian people.

The cable hailed the stand of the great Libyan revolution on the side of the Palestinian people and their revolution, and on the side of patriotic, national and progressive forces of the Arab world aspiring to destroy the American and Zionist bases and interests in the Arab homeland and to acquire political, economic and social freedom from the forces of world imperialism and the leader of world terrorism, the United States, and its puppets in the world.

The cable stressed that the reactionary American siege of Libya and the sending of the U.S. fleet toward Libyan territory, as well as its coordination of hostile acts against the Libyan Jamahiriyah, constitute evidence for the honorable pan-Arab and progressive stands of the Libyan revolution.

The cable stressed the solidarity of the liberation movements and the progressive parties accredited to Aden with the Libyan people and their revolution against the hostile imperialist onslaught.

PFLO CONDEMNS ANNEXATION OF GOLAN HEIGHTS

EA181130 Aden Voice of PFLO in Arabic 1545 GMT 17 Dec 81

["Text" of statement made by an unidentified "official spokesman" of the PFLO; read by announcer -- date and place not given]

[Text] At a time when the world is directing its attention to the Polish crisis, Israel, through Begin, confirmed its scorn and flagrant violation of all international charters and conventions by announcing the annexation of occupied Syrian territory -- the Golan Heights.

The Zionist enemy continues to show he deals only with the language of violence and aggression and understands only this logic. This new Zionist decision means nothing other than dragging this region to the abyss of war and thereby (?threatening) the security and safety of the region and violating the ceasefire.

The United States has a hand in these aggressive acts of the Zionist enemy through its unreserved support for Israel and its support for the flagrant occupation of the Arab territories. Confronting and thwarting the vicious onslaught to which the Arab nation is subject demands the mobilization of all Arab resources and potential.

We in the PFLO condemn this arrogant Zionist measure and are confident that steadfast Syria is stronger than all the plots and machinations and that the Arab nation will triumph with the will of its masses, who are well aware of the Zionist imperialist designs which aim to control their resources. We affirm our support for and stand alongside heroic Syria, pledging to the brotherly Syrian people and the peoples of our Arab nation to contribute effectively in the struggle to rout the aggressive imperialist plans.

BRIEFS

KOMSOMOL DELEGATION'S VISIT -- Brother Riyad al-Akbari, member of the Central Committee and first secretary of the Central Committee of the Democratic Yemeni Youth Union, met a Komsomol friendship delegation this morning led by Comrade (Lizbella Nistova), secretary of the Central Committee of the Leninist Komsomol, who is currently visiting Democratic Yemen as part of the activities of the fifth week of friendship between the Democratic Yemeni Youth Union and Komsomol. The meeting dealt with a number of important issues and relations between Yemeni and Soviet youth and ways of strengthening them. [Text] [Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 23 Dec 81 EA]

'ALI READS MUBARAK PORT SAID ADDRESS 23 DEC

NC231427 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1030 GMT 23 Dec 81

["Text" of President Husni Mubarak's 23 December address to the people of Port Said on the 25th anniversary of the withdrawal of British forces from Egypt -- delivered by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali]

[Text] Port Said, 23 Dec (MENA) -- President Husni Mubarak has emphasized that the name of Port Said will remain a beacon throughout the history of mankind's struggle and a symbol of our people's struggle for their land.

He said the Port Said battle is not only an inspiration for the Egyptian people but it is also the spark which ignited the creative capabilities for challenge throughout the Arab nation and throughout the vast expanses of the Third World, including Africa, Asia and Latin America.

This statement is contained in the address which President Husni Mubarak made to the people of Port Said on the 25th anniversary of the British forces' withdrawal from the Port Said base following the tripartite aggression. The address was delivered on the president's behalf by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali.

The following is the text of the address:

Throughout the course of history, there are landmarks which forever remain a source of inspiration for the peoples in their struggle for freedom and for self-assertion. The name of your great city will continue to be one of these bright landmarks throughout the history of mankind's struggle and a symbol of our people's struggle for the defense of their land.

Egypt has chosen for its victory holiday the day on which your struggle was crowned with victory conferred by God. It has also chosen this day as one which future generations will recall with full pride and dignity the struggle of the sons of Port Said. Egypt has indeed chosen this day because it is the magnificent epitome of the Egyptian people's potential, of their authentic traits and of their endless sacrifices for their country and its dignity.

Brothers, your battle is not only the source of inspiration for our people, but it is also the spark which has ignited the creative capabilities for challenge throughout our Arab nation and the vast expanses of the Third World, including Africa, Asia and Latin America. The people of these continents view your heroic challenge of the military forces of the three states which conspired to bend the will of our people in Port Said as a splendid source of inspiration and the harbinger of the end which will befall the remnants of hegemony and exploitation.

A quarter of a century has elapsed since the volcanos of challenge and steadfastness in your good land erupted in the face of the armies of conspiracy and aggression. Throughout this quarter of a century, our people have carried their weapons in one hand and built with the other. Our people built edifices for their advancement and prosperity. For a quarter of a century, the banners of victory have waved in our sky. These banners never ceased waving and were never pulled down, despite ordeals and momentous events. Our banners couldn't have been lowered while our people continued to follow their path with their heads held high, with strong determination and with faith in God and homeland and in the fact that it is imperative that the banners of revolution raised in Port Said continue to wave, regardless of ordeals and momentous events.

Our people have carried the pioneering flag of Arab action for a quarter of a century. They have put on record in contemporary Arab history the first serious and sincere attempts to achieve Arab unity and joint Arab action. These attempts did not last and succeed as our Arab people wanted them to last and succeed. However, this fact has not weakened this people's determination, nor has it induced our people to refrain from making the sacrifices which they have offered out of true faith and good will.

A quarter century saw the pure blood of our people and the sweat of their toil everywhere in the Arab region in defense of Arab rights. We find all the Arab people are looking up to the collosal people of Egypt, who would support them in their struggle for independence and freedom as well as their progress and prosperity.

A quarter century saw Egypt, together with its courageous and believing people, waging the battle of self-discovery and vanquishing the causes of defeatism in the wake of an accidental setback along the raod of its victories since the Port Said war. Egypt's Armed Forces are waging the most glorious battles to once again hoist a flag that has been missing in one place but has continued to fly with dignity and honor in all others.

A quarter century saw Egypt, with the hands of its sons, building lofty towers aimed at attaining economic progress and at laying solid foundations for a prosperous future.

The green color has continued its speedy march forward so as to add a new treasure to our fertile valley and a new beat to our industrial forces embodied by a modern industry which has constituted a strong base in our economic foundations -- a base which is an integral part of our modern renaissance which will reform our society so as to achieve prosperity and justice.

Brothers and Sisters of Port Said:

No one can apprecite more the values of justice and righteousness than those who waged battles and carried weapons in their defense. Since the victory of Port Said, the last quarter century saw a historic turning point which will remain the main event of this period. Egypt has chosen the path of peace after achieving victory in the 1973 war -- a victory admitted by the whole world.

Therefore, our choice of the path of peace was that of a strong people. We did not choose peace because of weakness or feebleness. We chose peace, a noble and strong peace, out of a sincere belief that it will achieve for us and for our Arab brethren and all the region's countries and people what the wars of the previous quarter century failed to achieve in terms of stability and peaceful coexistence. A peace which will satisfy all the parties in concept and execution. A peace based on a sincere adherence to international charters and human rights -- this is the peace we want: This is the peace we have been working for since we started our march on the arduous road to attain a strong overall peace which will guarantee the rights of all parties.

Brothers and Sisters: One of the characteristics of great nations is their ability to learn from history and to use these lessons to sustain them on their long roads progress and prosperity. While passing this stage, Egypt is more aware of the noble values which were inherent in your battle in Port Said and is trying to make use of its meanings and lessons. Today we are very much in need of the spirit of defiance which Port Said enjoyed in the face of the legions of aggression in order to face the problems of development and the battle of construction. We are very much in need of the lessions of sacrifice which Port Said made for the sake of its nation in order for us to build the edifice of our new society and the means for its glory. We are very much in need of the lessons of discipline and dedication in the performance of duty which were the hallmark of Port Said in its battle in order to wage the battle for progress and prosperity.

The people who gave generously on the land of Port Said about a quarter of a century ago and who were an example of dedication in defending their land and values are able today to give anew. They are able to face any challenge for safeguarding every inch of their land and for a better future dominated by freedom, security and peace.

Brothers and Sisters: If the struggle of peoples for their freedom and independence is a linked chain, your battle in Port Said and your victory, which Egypt celebrates today, was a principal link in the continuous chain of our people's struggle and a historic turning point in the course of this struggle. Nothing is more indicative of this than the banners of glory and victory which were raised over your heroic city on 23 December 1956 and which, despite the most difficult circumstances, remained dear and flying high. These are the same banners which were raised on the dear liberated part of Sinai and which will be raised after 4 months on the remaining part of our sacred land to which we yearn with our eyes across the Canal which was and will remain the close link that connects the valley and Sinai.

Let us announce to the whole world that the people of Egypt are continuing the sacred march toward freedom and toward a comprehensive and strong peace, which is the will of God before it is a historic necessity. Our people are continuing to perform their historic role for their Arab nation, a leader, as always, faithful and loyal to all the noble values which were a beacon for their struggle throughout history.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali had arrived in Port Said at 1000 today where he was received by Sayyid Sarhan, the governor of Port Said governorate; Muhammad Itbu al-Qasim, secretary of the National Democratic Party [NDP]; and a number of political and popular leaders in the governorate.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali and his entourage then proceeded to the martyrs monument in the governorates square where he laid a wreath and read the opening chapter of the Koran for the souls of the martyrs.

As a representative of the president, he then proceeded to the main podium which was set up for this occasion. The celebration then began with speeches by the chairman of the local popular council, the secretary of the NDP and the governor of Port Said. The three speakers expressed their support for President Husni Mubarak's measures to consolidate the process of democracy which will lead to the realization of all the hopes for progress and prosperity for Egypt.

Taking part in the military parade, which took place on this occasion, were symbolic units of the Armed Forces, police, the popular and civil defense and cadets of military secondary schools. The parade lasted about 1 hour after which Kamal Hasan 'Ali left Port Said for Cairo.

COMMUNIQUE 562; 798 IRANIANS, 13 IRAQIS KILLED

JN231738 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1650 GMT 23 Dec 81

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Dec (INA) -- The Iraqi forces have launched a large-scale attack against the Iranian enemy in the Gilan-e Gharb and Sumar areas in which the enemy sustained 768 killed and many captured.

Communique No 562 issued tonight by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command said that, during this attack, the enemy forces were defeated and their remnants were forced to flee in terror.

The communique put known Iranian losses during the past 24 hours at 798 killed and 6 vehicles, 3 guns 3 ammunition stockpiles, 2 observation posts destroyed, 1 helicopter shot down and 1 boat set on fire.

Following is the text of the communique:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

With hearts full of faith in their God and in the revolutionary principles and values in which we believe and which we protect, our noble and glorious sons of the just Al-Qadisiyah battle are fighting the forces of the racist Persian regime which has been blinded by the rancor and arrogance which made it disavow Iraq's legitimate rights and continue to attack Iraq's nation and sovereignty.

Following are the results of our armed forces' military activities last night and today:

I. Known enemy losses:

A. With courage, capability and efficiency, our triumphant units last night and today launched a large-scale attack against the collapsing enemy forces in the Gilan-e Gharb and Sumar areas and engaged them with all weapons. In a fierce battle, our units succeeded in defeating and destroying the enemy forces, forcing them to retreat from their positions. The enemy sustained huge human and material losses. Known enemy losses counted by the competent parties reached 768 killed, whose bodies still litter the battlefield, and many captured; 1 helicopter shot down by our ground defenses; and 4 guns and 3 vehicles destroyed. The battle is still continuing.

B. One of our units clashed with an enemy force in the Nowsud area and killed 13 of the enemy.

C. Our units struck an enemy concentration in the Abadan area, killing 11 enemy personnel, destroying 3 ammunition stockpiles and 1 observation post and setting on fire 1 boat.

D. Five enemy personnel were killed and one vehicle and one observation post were destroyed in the Shush area.

E. One of the enemy was killed and one vehicle was destroyed in the Dezful area.

Thus, total known enemy losses amount to 798 killed and 6 vehicles, 3 guns, 3 ammunition stockpiles and 2 observation posts destroyed, 1 helicopter downed and 1 boat set on fire.

II. Our losses:

A. In personnel: 13 martyrs for all sectors.
B. In equipment: One tank, one personnel carrier and one mortar damaged.

CHIEF OF STAFF REVIEWS RECENT BATTLES

JN231955 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1835 GMT 23 Dec 81

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Dec (INA) -- Staff Gen 'Abd al-Jabbar Shanshal, chief of staff of the Iraqi Armed Forces, has revealed the Iranian enemy's losses in the recent Gilan-e Gharb and Sumar battles. he said these losses amounted to 11,000 killed and 10,000 wounded during the period 11-18 December.

In an interview broadcast by Iraqi television this evening, he said the Iranian enemy failed to gain any position or objective in the military theater of operations as a result of these battles. He added: Our forces continue to be in the positions they reached on 28 September 1980 and continue to remain in control of the situation despite the length of the war and the successive Iranian counterattacks. The Iraqi military official stressed that the Iranian forces had failed to achieve any results worth mentioning and that all their counterattacks had failed.

Staff Gen 'Abd al-Jabbar Shanshal ridiculed Iranian claims and lies about achieving victories. He said: They are illusory victories.

Staff Gen 'Abd al-Jabbar Shanshal reviewed the Iranian enemy's offensives in the Gilan-e Charb and Sumar areas. He said: The Iranian enemy began his offensive during the night of 11 December, or, more precisely, at 0130 against the Sumar area and the heights overlooking it. The enemy extended his offensive to Gilan-e Gharb at 0530. He said that this offensive was launched from 11 positions and the enemy used huge numbers of men. Our forces fought a fierce battle with the enemy forces, which lasted until noon on the next day. The Iranian enemy failed to achieve any gains except for a minor foothold on some of the heights that overlook the Imam Hasan plain on one side and the Gilan plain on the other and another foothold in the Sumar area.

The Iraqi official said that the Iraqi forces were prepared for this. They launched fierce offensive operations against these two footholds, destroyed all the Iranian forces in them and removed them completely from these two footholds.

Staff Gen 'Abd al-Jabbar Shanshal also reviewed the recent enemy offensives in Kafajiah [Susangerd] and Basatin. He said that this operation and all the others had failed. He added: After flooding the area, the enemy tried to attack our forces in the Basatin area which remained between the two rivers, in other words between the (Al-Mishdakh) heights and the sand dunes on the one side and the Karkheh ('Amiah) River on the other side in an attempt to find a place from which it could enter the area. The enemy used many of its armored divisions and large numbers of Khomeyni guards and other military units.

He added: On the night of 28 November, the enemy attacked this area from six positions. The offensive carried out by the Iranian units failed from all these positions with the exception of one narrow area, between the sand dunes and the Karkheh River. Here they succeeded in finding an opening through which they were able to reach Basatin village, behind which our forces were located, to the south and north of Hur Hoveyzeh. He said: The purpose of gaining control over this narrow spot between (Al-Mishdakh) and the Karkheh River is just for propaganda. The enemy forces in all the other areas were defeated. The enemy sustained no less than 6,500 killed in this battle and triple this number in wounded. It lost a minimum of 260 tanks, personnel carriers and armored vehicles, 60 guns and 11 fighter aircraft.

At the end of the interview, Staff Gen 'Abd al-Jabbar Shanshal wondered: How many years will the Iranian enemy continue this war to regain territory which had been offered to it through peace talks from the first month of the war? How many more losses will the enemy suffer as a result of its aggressive and racist stands?

STATEMENT ISSUED ON CYPRIOT PRESIDENT'S VISIT

JN231813 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1635 GMT 23 Dec 81

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Dec (INA) -- Cyprus has highly appraised Iraq's support for the efforts exerted on all international levels which aim to reach a just and honorable solution to the conflict with Iran.

In a joint statement issued this evening in both Nicosia and Baghdad on the visit of Cypriot President Spiros Kiprianou to Iraq, Cyprus expressed its complete understanding of Iraq's just stand on the conflict and hoped the Iranian Government would respond to Iraq's invitation to stop the fighting and to solve the conflict by peaceful means.

The two sides affirmed their determination to enlarge and further promote the cordial relations between them in the various political, cultural, economic, commercial and other spheres. The two sides agreed to exchange visits and meetings on all levels in order to further bolster and consolidate relations between the two countries and to back world peace and stability.

The two sides expressed support for the Palestinian Arab people's struggle and agreed that the attainment of a durable and just peace in the Arab region can be achieved only through the liberation of the occupied Arab territories and the recognition of the Palestinian people's historical rights, including their right to return to their homeland, determine their future and establish their own independent state on it.

Following is the text of the joint statement:

At the invitation of Staff Field Marshal Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic of Iraq, Spiros Kiprianou, president of the Republic of Cyprus paid a visit to the Republic of Iraq between 20-22 December 1981.

Spiros Kiprianou and his delegation were received with cordiality and hospitality, reflecting the existing friendly relations between the two countries.

Staff Field Marshal Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic of Iraq, and Spiros Kiprianou, president of the Republic of Cyprus, held talks on bilateral relations and other international issues of common interest.

Attending the talks on the Iraqi side were 'Izzat Ibrahim, Revolution Command Council [RCC] vice chairman; Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister; tariq 'Aziz, RCC member; 'Adnan Khayrallah, minister of defense; Sa'dun Ghaydan, minister of communications and transport; Tariq Hamad al-'Abdallah, RCC secretary general and acting chief of the president's office; Hamid 'Alwan, minister of state for foreign affairs and acting foreign minister; and Dr Riyad Ibrahim Husayn, minister of health and chief of the escort mission accompanying the Cypriot presidium.

Attending on the Cypriot side were: Nikolaos Rolandhis, minister of foreign affairs; Yeoryios Pelayias, Foreign Ministry under secretary; Mikhailidhis, ambassador at the Foreign Ministry; Vovidhis, director of the presidential office; and Khristofidhis, adviser to the president.

During the talks, which were held in an atmosphere of deep cordiality and trust, the two sides further confirmed the friendly relations between Iraq and Cyprus. The two sides noticed with satisfaction the continued progress of these relations, which serves the interests of the two countries. They reviewed issues of common interest and had identical views regarding their countries' adherence to the UN principles and Charter as well as to the principles of the Nonaligned Movement, respect for other countries' independence, noninterference in other countries' internal affairs and cooperation among all peace-loving countries.

They then reviewed the friendly relations between their countries in the various political, cultural, economic, commercial and other spheres. They expressed their determination to enlarge and further promote these relations in the future to serve the common interests of the two countries. The two sides underlined the importance of maintaining the effectiveness of the nonaligned policy, which has been of great service to the world community.

The two sides agreed on the importance of protecting and bolstering the unity and solidarity of the Nonaligned Movement. They decided to cooperate to secure complete success for the coming summit conference of the Nonaligned Movement due to convene in Baghdad next year.

The Iraqi side outlined the situation in the Arab Gulf region and explained developments in the confrontation with Iran. The Iraqi side also underlined the serious situation resulting from Iran's aggression against Iraq, its continued violation of the principles of good neighborliness and peaceful coexistence and its failure to recognize Iraq's legitimate rights and sovereignty over its land and waters.

The Iraqi side also outlined the results of international efforts to solve the Iraqi-Iranian dispute and reiterated its support for the efforts being exerted at all international levels to achieve a cease-fire and an immediate solution between the parties concerned through negotiations, guaranteeing their just legitimate rights and establishing the bases of coexistence, good neighborliness and cooperation among all the states of the region.

The Cypriot side expressed its complete understanding of Iraq's just stand on the dispute and commended its support for the efforts being exerted at all international levels to achieve a just and honorable solution to the Iraqi - Iranian dispute.

It also expressed the hope that the Iranian Government would respond to Iraq's call for a cease-fire and for a solution by peaceful means.

The two sides referred to the increasing dangers of foreign military presence in the Arab Gulf region and the continuous attempts by the big powers to obtain military facilities there with the consequent threat to the region's safety, stability and development.

They asserted that the security of the Arab Gulf region is the sole responsibility of the countries of the region without interference from foreign quarters.

Iraqi President Staff Field Marhsal Saddam Husayn was briefed by Cyprus President Spiros Kiprianou on the latest developments of the Cyprus question. The two presidents expressed the hope that both Cypriot sides would achieve the desired solution to their question in accordance with the UN resolutions on the Cyprus question and the high-level agreement concluded between the two sides in accordance with the UN Charter and the principles and objectives of the Nonaligned Movement. The two leaders called for a stop to all outside interference in Cyprus.

Iraqi President Staff Field Marshal Saddam Husayn and Cyprus President Spiros Kiprianou believe that it is possible to achieve a just and lasting solution that is beneficial to all Cypriots and that guarantees Cyprus' sovereignty, territorial integrity and nonalignment as well as respect for human rights and the basic liberties of the Cypriot people.

The two leaders asserted that making Cyprus a demilitarized zone is in the interest of its people and in conformity with the objectives and principles of the Nonaligned Movement. It also serves the issues of peace, security and stability in this sensitive part of the eastern Mediterranean and the Middle East.

The Iraqi side stressed its position which calls for free negotiations between the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities without outside interference so that they can reach a solution to their problem. It also asserted its continued support for the Cyprus Government and people and for all other efforts to achieve a just, peaceful and lasting solution to the problem.

During their review of the Arab-Israeli dispute, the two sides expressed support for the Palestinian Arab people's struggle and the common viewpoint that the achievement of just and lasting peace in the Arab region can be achieved only by the liberation of the occupied Arab territories and the Palestinian people's exercise of their historical rights to their Palestinian homeland, including their right to return, to determine their destiny on their national soil and to establish their independent state.

During their review of international economic issues, the two sides concentrated their attention on the general North-South dialogue and emphasized the need to establish a new international economic order in a manner guaranteeing equality, justice, progress and economic stability in the relations between the developing countries and industrial states by continuing the dialogue and international negotiations on economic development cooperation. The two sides also expressed the conviction that the developing countries must strengthen economic and technical cooperation between them for the sake of achieving rapid and comprehensive progress.

The two sides agreed to exchange visits and meetings on all levels to strengthen, consolidate and perpetuate the ties between their two countries for the sake of strengthening world peace and stability.

Cyprus President Spiros Kiprianou expressed his profound thanks to Iraqi President Staff Field Marshal Saddam Husayn and the Iraqi Government and people for the warm reception and hospitality accorded to him and the members of his delegation during their visit. President Kiprianou extended an invitation to Iraqi President Staff Field Marshal Saddam Husayn to visit Cyprus. The invitation was accepted with pleasure and a date for the visit will be fixed later.

AD-DUSTUR WELCOMES FAHD'S CALL ON FES SUMMIT

JN240818 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 24 Dec 81

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Urgent Summit is a Pan-Arab Necessity," AD-DUSTUR says: Saudi Crown Prince Fahd's call for the immediate resumption of the Fes summit represents the sound trend that must be pursued by the Arab nation under these critical circumstances to express its unity and solidarity vis-a-vis the mounting Zionist expansionist threat and to adopt a unified Arab stand that will confront all eventualities and realize desired objectives.

This call, which was made following Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's visit to Saudi Arabia and his talks with Saudi officials, implies that the two sides have agreed upon a specific formula to eliminate all obstacles, including the Syrian rejection of the Saudi initiative -- an initiative used by the Syrian president as a pretext for his absence at the Fes summit. Furthermore, the main topic that dominated the talks centered on finding the means to restore Arab solidarity and to eliminate all kinds of Arab differences.

While welcoming Prince Fahd's call for the resumption of the Fes summit and considering it a reasonable and objective call, we hope the Saudi diplomacy, which is a capable and qualified one, will exert strenuous efforts to eliminate Arab differences, including all issues and topics that are disrupting inter-Arab relations, so that all the Arabs will go to the Fes summit with pure hearts and intentions. The main objective should be in the service of the nation's interests and should be represented in the adoption of the necessary measures and steps to confront all war or peace possibilities.

Continuing, AD-DUSTUR says: At the same time, we hope Syria will reconsider its stand on the Iraqi-Iranian war as dictated by the requisites of Arab solidarity that behooves everyone to carry out a joint action in the same direction.

The resumption of the Fes summit is an invitable necessity dictated by the new developments in the Arab and international arena, foremost of which is Israel's decision to annex the Golan Heights and its expansionist steps that might follow. MK Ge'ula Kohen, who, more than a year ago, proposed annexation of the Golan, is the same person who a few days ago, submitted a bill to the Knesset to annex the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In conclusion, AD-DUSTUR says: The Arabs' meeting in Fes will enable them to speak frankly and sincerely to eliminate the vestiges of differences and rifts and will also place them in front of the pan-Arab responsibility toward establishing the pillars of the joint Arab action within an all-out strategy that defines the collective stand of the Arab nation.

Our unified stand and cohesion will enable us to defend our land and restore our rights by means of peace or war. This stand will define the international community's stand, led by the United States, and will also put an end to the Zionist expansion.

AL-ASAD CABLES THANKS TO SAUDI KING KHALID

JN231924 Damascus Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 23 Dec 81

[Text] At the end of his visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, President Hafiz al-Asad sent the following cable to His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz:

Your Majesty Brother King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, king of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia -- Riyadh.

As we depart the fraternal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, after meeting with Your Majesty and with his royal highness the crown prince, it gives me pleasure to express on behalf of the Syrian delegation's members my gratitude for the great hospitality and fraternal feelings that surrounded us.

Our talks with Your Majesty and with His Royal Highness Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz aimed at serving the supreme Arab interest during these times when the Arab nation is facing grave threats to its fate and future on the part of the Zionist expansion. There is no doubt our talks will contribute to further bolstering the possibilities of joint Arab action in a manner that will support our nation's capability of confronting and conquering these challenges and threats.

I wish for Your Majesty continued good health and happiness and properity for the fraternal people of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. [Signed] Your brother, Hafiz al-Asad.

KHADDAM: AL-ASAD'S VISIT TO RIYADH 'EXCELLENT'

JN231254 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 23 Dec 81

[Text] Mr 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign affairs minister, has described the president's visit to Saudi Arabia as excellent.

In a statement to AFP, he added that the talks dealt with all issues pertaining to the Arab situation. He expressed his satisfaction with the atmosphere of complete understanding that prevailed during the talks.

DEMONSTRATION IN GOLAN LED BY BA'TH OFFICIALS

NC221832 Paris AFP in English 1824 GMT 22 Dec 81

[Text] Al-Qunaytirah, Syria, 22 Dec (AFP) -- An estimated crowd of nearly 15,000 Golan Syrians arrived here today to protest Israel's decision to annex the Golan Heights.

Those leading the demonstration included officials of Syria's ruling Ba'th Party.

Al-Qunaytirah, the former Golan capital, was destroyed by the Israelis in 1974. It stands on the ceasefire boundary and inside the partly demilitarised zone controlled by United Nations "blue helmets."

Speakers at the rally accused the United States of "helping Israel to Judaise the Golan."

At the end of the demonstration, a message on behalf of "the Golan masses" was sent to President Hafiz al-Asad. It said:

"We refuse that Israeli nationality should be imposed on the Golan and the other Israeli-occupied territories. We are ready for every sacrifice to liberate our land."

(In Jerusalem, reports from journalists said the demonstrators numbered no more than 3,000. The reports said the demonstrators, controlled by Syrian troops, chanted Syrian nationalist slogans and insults at the Israeli military units stationed nearby.

(There was extreme tension on the Israeli side, the reports said, and security measures had been strengthened.)

AL-KASM DELIVERS GOVERNMENT POLICY STATEMENT

JN202112 Damascus Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1845 GMT 20 Dec 81

["Text" of Syrian Government policy statement delivered by Syrian Prime Minister Dr 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm at the Syrian People's Assembly in Damascus on 20 December 1981 -- videotaped]

[Text] Speaker of the People's Assembly, members: In my first meeting with the new People's Assembly and on the occasion of the discussion of the first general report submitted by the government on its work for this year, 1981, I would like to express my appreciation as well as the appreciation of my colleagues, the government members, kto the previous assembly. The period between 1980 and the end of the previous assembly's term was full of consolidated relations of cooperation between the government and the assembly, which embodied and always embody the concepts of this constitutional institution as a supreme legislative authority which has a primary role. While congratulating you on the confidence granted to you by the people, I cannot but stress our joint outlook as assembly and government toward the establishment of a fruitful and developed stage of cooperation. The working meetings will be continuous since you are the representatives of the people, who have the real power in this country. Your assembly is the one supervising, calling into account and guiding the executive authority. This effective relationship always gives expression to the broad and important realities of our popular democratic regime, whose bases have been laid down and whose concepts have been further entrenched under President struggler Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the party.

At the beginning of the assembly's work and exercise of its constitutional jurisdictions, I feel dutybound to briefly indicate that the government, which commenced its tasks at the beginning of 1980, managed during that year and with much effort on the part of the ministers and state workers in various positions and on various levels to overcome important obstacles and many difficulties. What helped it to do so was that it embarked right from the beginning on reconsidering the emplacement and sequence of jurisdictions and on drawing up objective criteria, which enabled it to rectify the state institutions and the public sector and to isolate the factors causing negative phenomena from the factors creating positive phenomena as represented in our social and economic entity. The government has thus managed to overcome the impediments and to proceed toward a stage in which the production processes in the agricultural and industrial sectors have been boosted and their methods and rates developed. It also undertook much work in the services offered to the people in all provinces. These services included education in its elementary and higher stages as well as health and culture, the supply of water and electricity, paving roads, expanding railroads, organizing towns and raising wages and confronting the world economic reflections. The government has also continued to provide food security to all citizens and meet their needs for various products and commodities, particularly agricultural and food supplies.

It is also very important to indicate that the resolutions of the seventh regional congress of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, which defined our government's starting points and aims, were an incentive for constructive work as well as a source of danger to the enemies of the homeland inside and outside Syria. Those enemies found in the party's insight and progressive treatment of society's issues a challenge to the schemes of imperialism, Zionism and their agents. In view of this, the government had to realize that with all the jurisdictions and potentials in its possession it must know what it wants, what it must do and what it must achieve every day and every month, and even what it must do in the next 5 years. Therefore, it drew up the fifth 5-year plan on economic and social development in a new scientific way so that it could remove from the development line in this country all that is related to the remnants of confusion, dispersion, dependability, dissipation and shortcomings in the state and society.

It announced that any scheduled project should be justified economically, that dependence on local resources should be given precedence, that any public or private expenditures should be made wisely and effectively and that every scheme should be based on scientific planning, real need and absorption of development activities because development is really the path of general salvation for the people's toiling masses which believe in the march along the path of socialist transformation.

According to the aims of my government, the year 1982 will witness on the economic level an emphasis aimed at increasing the gross national product; realizing a 7.7 percent growth; increasing the per capita income by 3.8 percent; realizing a growth rate of 6.6 percent in overall investments; continuing in rationalizing imports, exports and consumption; and amending all the laws pertaining to the rules governing the working systems and their methods and procedures in the government and economic sectors. I can define, as briefly as possible, the line which will be followed by the government in its work. The government feels that it is responsible for presenting before your esteemed assembly its plan of action and for committing itself to realizing the aims which must be achieved in 1982. Therefore, the government's program, based on the economic plans and on the facts inherent in the fifth 5-year plan for development to which it has committed itself, will include work with the following aims:

1. The required economic, administrative and accountative tasks cannot be reached through partial solutions. These tasks require the implementation of the principle of comprehensive planning.

2. The country's aim will remain firm on the principle of realizing the Arab economic integration through the regional planning of the national economy, and on completing the construction of the socialist base in this country.

3. The Arab cultural heritage must be made the basis for the educational and learning system and the genuine pan-Arab values must be deepened among the citizens in this country.

4. Stress will continue on the supremacy of the law.

5. The next stage in implementing the local administration system will continue and various powers will be invested in the local authorities in the governorates. The pillars of the popular democratic system will be strengthened and the local administration in each governorate will be a basis for creative and effective activity.

6. Priority should be given for rural development in the economic policy in order to make it a framework for agricultural development in plants and livestock.

7. The most ideal standards must be followed to employ the present and future capabilities through proper exploitation of the resources and reducing waste in production, and to create new resources on selective economic bases for the long-term and short-term production projects.

8. Production must be reconstructed and its components should be redistributed between exports and local consumption with the aim of meeting people's needs and exporting as well. The means of production must also be produced.

9. An ideal level for exploiting the water and natural resources must be realized. The natural wealth should be explored and those resources that are economically feasible should be exploited.

10. The administrative systems and skeletons in the state and public sector must be developed and strengthened in order to raise the efficiency of the national economy, both from the commodity and the services viewpoints.

11. The rationalization of the processes of imports, exports and consumption must be continued. The monetary system must be supported.

12. Security in food and supplies must be provided and the services of the internal trade and consumers stores must be expanded.

13. A wider step must be taken in the fields of public services such as health, drinking water, electric energy for lighting and industry; roads and railway and transportation services inside the cities and among the country's regions, the land and air travel capacities must be increased and the standards of services in ports must be raised.

14. Emphasis must be laid on education and learning which must be increased, especially in the fields of vocational and technical learning, and have strong ties with the development plan.

15. The nation's defense capability must continue to be strengthened through the development of the combat ability of the armed forces in training and arms in order to continue the country's national and pan-Arab march against all Zionist and world imperialist plots and designs and the plots of their agents in the region.

These aims constitute the headlines for the government's programs and methods in constructing this country and in speeding up its economic and social progress. These aims must be embodied in all sectors of work and production and must have palpable and noticeable results in the following fields:

1. The financial and monetary policy:

A. During 1982, we must endeavor to attain a better proportion between the gross local revenues and expenditures on the one hand and the gross local income on the other hand. In other words, our target is to increase the local revenues in the general budget with a growth rate amounting to 16 percent; to increase the current revenues at a growth rate of 20 percent; and to increase the investment revenues at a growth rate of 12.8 percent. Also to control prices gradually in accordance with a policy that tends to support the citizens.

B. To continue to pursue the policy of reducing expenditures to the minimum and to give priority in investment expenditures to implementing the projects, which have already been begun, and to improving the capacity of the existing projects.

C. To tighten control on the production sectors based on annual reports to be compiled in accordance with the rate of performance.

D. To continue to develop the income tax system and to study the basic monetary order and link the spending plan with the state budget and the consumption and investment with the 5-year plan.

2. The agricultural policy:

A. To increase the irrigated land and reduce the uncultivated land in the second (?settlement) area; to improve the production of the cultivated land and transform the peasants cooperative societies into production societies; to expand the animal production societies; to apply the planned agricultural method; to promote forestation and fruit-bearing trees; to spread guidance units and to support and promote agricultural research.

B. To promote the administrative and command bodies of all the agricultural sectors and to continue to develop the structural body of the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reform.

C. To continue to promote plans on land reform, agriculture and investment and to support the new institutions operating the Euphrates basin in order to achieve an advanced and effective step in this field.

D. To continue to provide agricultural credits in accordance wtih the production plans; to adopt a policy for pricing the agricultural products that would encourage peasants to increase production, that would develop agricultural machines and promote centers for servicing agricultural tools.

E. To achieve an increase in the gross local income of the agricultural sector at a growth rate of 7.8 percent and guarantee the requirements of the local industry of agricultural revenues.

3. The public industrial sector:

A. To work to rectify the structural body of the industrial sector by focusing on setting up and developing industries that would consequently promote the development process and produce the basic commodities.

B. To increase the average of local revenues of the workers' production and to continue to change and rejuvenate machines in accordance with their economic feasibility.

C. To achieve integration between the industrial and agricultural sectors through the leading role of the public sector; to solve the problems of the projects that are being implemented; to distribute the new industrial projects throughout the country in accordance with the scientific criteria; to give authorization to the central production commands; to consider transformational industries as integral parts and to achieve a growth rate of 15.3 percent for it.

4. Oil and mineral resources:

A. Oil production up to September 1981 was planned to reach 6,997,200 cubic meters. However, production reached 7,030,054 cubic meters. In 1982, we will work to produce 8 million cubic meters and we will increase the capacity of the Homs and Baniyas refineries. We will also increase the quantity being transported by the Syrian Oil Transport Company and the Syrian Crude Oil Company. We will secure the oil by products of local consumption.

B. To work to complete the iron factory after assessing the proposed study. The rate production of phosphate in 1981 reached 111 percent. We will either maintain this rate or increase it. We will also try to increase the asphalt production which reached an average of 70 percent in 1981 to 100 percent in 1982.

5. Electricity:

A. Electricity had reached 360 villages by November 1981. The Tartus-Latakia line has been inaugurated. The Aleppo-Idlib line has also been completed. In 1982, electrification of the countryside will continue at the rate of one village every day.

B. To improve electricity services for citizens.

C. To benefit from all resources of power generations and ensure power energy by means of a network to all factories and economic installations. To provide all requirements of operation and investment before the implementation of the power generation stations.

6. Water:

A. To increase the utilization of the present water resources and the individual's consumption rate of water and to provide pure drinking water.

B. To establish public water departments in the second and third degree municipal areas.

C. To provide villages with drinking water and improve the cities' water networks as a basic target in this regard.

7. Foreign trade:

A. To rectify the structure of exports and imports and to encourage national industry by sending local products to the parallel market. To improve trade balance and ensure the local markets' need for materials that are locally unavailable within the framework of the aims of production, investment and consumption as cited in the plan.

B. To increase exports of commodities and services with a growth rate amounting to 6.5 percent and to open exhibitions abroad to acquaint people with our national products and bolster trade relations with Arab countries.

8. Local trade and food supplies.:

A. To increase the technical and ordinary storage areas and to increase the selling centers of local trade in the public sector, including ideal and popular complexes and halls as well as consumer selling centers. To encourage consumer cooperative societies.

B. To provide the basic food commodities in abundance, to continue expanding wholesale and retail trade of the public sector, to achieve the greatest possible stability of prices, to market all the public sector's products and to increase the effectiveness of food supervision.

9. Housing and utilities:

A. The government will continue to concentrate on building popular houses by means of the public sector's housing institutions. It will also continue to support housing cooperation and deal with its problems.

B. Next year there will be concentration on the application of law No 38 of saving for the purpose of housing and law No 852 issued by the prime minister's office. Concentration will also be on the application of law No 60 on including districts and subdistricts in organizational plans.

C. To continue dealing with water contamination and to provide populated areas with the sewage systems.

10. Transportation and communications:

A. To increase the length of the main roads and the roads of the third and fourth degree. To continue work on improving, strengthening and renewing the present roads as entrusted to general construction companies in all provinces.

B. To accomplish the railroad projects under construction and supply necessary equipment.

C. To boost the Syrian airline company's fleet, improve airports and build a passengers reception hall in Damascus.

D. To increase the capacity of Tartus and Latakia harbors and improve harbor services.

E. To increase the number of (?telephone exchanges) between cities, double the number of subscribers in the automatic telephone service, spread telephone services in rural areas, improve and maintain telephone lines and increase the number of international (?telephone exchanges).

F. To support the fleet transporting people between cities, increase the number of buses and transport vehicles between cities and in rural areas and draw up a sound transport plan in the country.

G. To support the navigation company and bolster its capabilities so that it will continue its work. This company's revenues amounted to 105 million Syrian pounds in hard currency in 1981, whereas its revenues in 1980 amounted to 23 million Syrian pounds.

11. Health policy:

A. To continue the application of the health insurance system and achieve its objectives, to apply the system of primary health care and to supply the provinces with further well-equipped dispensaries.

B. To continue drawing up a sound policy banning any manipulation in medicines and to continue work for increasing and diversifying the production of medicines.

12. Tourism:

To continue building hotels, camps and resthouses, to utilize natural scenery and to encourage all aspects of activity leading to increasing the country's income from tourism.

13. Education and higher education:

A. To adhere to the plan of spreading compulsory education in the elementary stage. Large strides have been made to spread this plan in various parts of Syria.

B. To continue increasing the number of schools in all elementary, preparatory and secondary stages and to increase their allocations in the state budget.

C. To continue developing the educational structure, curriculums and systems in all scholastic stages.

D. The necessary fields of specialization should continue to be created in the country's universities in order to meet the economic and social development needs.

E. The structure of higher education must continue in order to realize the plan's aims, namely, making available the required number of experts in a manner commensurate with the growth of the production and utilities during the implementation of the development programs.

14. Information and culture:

A. The government pays continued attention to the country's cultural activities in order to develop the cultural standards and expand knowledge among the people through cultural centers, publications and various art activities.

B. The government considers of basic importance the strengthening of information systems and employing in this field the technical, cultural and material resources. The year 1981 has been, according to the report which has been distributed to you, the date of completing a number of basic projects for information which is regarded as a basic link between the person and the world through which he can learn of the issues that affect his life.

Mr Speaker, respected members: Today we are approaching the year 1982. As we are speaking of the government's aims we must know that any development in production in the agricultural and public sectors must be coupled with accurate planning of the financial and monetary policy and trade activity. During the past 2 years, the government basically dealt with a number of important questions in the economic, financial, monetary and commercial fields. Public expenditure had to be rationalized and local resources had to be made available. In light of this approach, the rule for estimating taxes on the basis of estimated profits has been canceled. Income tax law No 21, dated 1 July 1981, was issued and it led to the tax estimation on the basis of real profit. The accumulation of taxes has been eliminated. This saved for the treasury 2 billion Syrian pounds in 1981. This financial policy was coupled with measures to rationalize the import and export process. This was preceded by the creation of the parallel market which helped the influx of additional revenues in hard currencies into our banking system. It was possible to control the price of the Syrian pound and to strengthen its purchasing power, particularly following the prevention of importing a number of luxury products. There was also encouragement of exporting national products to foreign markets. Decisions were taken by the committee for rationalizing imports, exports and consumption by which the government transferred about 70 national products to the parallel market. It was evident in 1981 and during the period in which the world witnessed world monetary troubles because of the dollar maneuvers, that the Syrian pound stood its ground. Syria was able, through the integrated economic measures in the productive, financial and monetary fields, the control in expenditure and the reduction in economic waste, to continue confidently in the field of continued development.

I have attempted to give the main headlines for the government's work in the years 1980 and 1981 and for the aims which the government is endeavoring to realize in 1982. I consider a report on the projects of 1981 which have been realized by the government as a means to have a glimpse of the integrated economic picture which is connected with the aspirations of next year. Naturally, a return to the details mentioned in the report is very useful in understanding the points mentioned in my speech.

In fact, this country, with its people, party and progressive national front, its popular organization and the workers in the public sector have proved that the Syrian Arab people have reached, with their social and economic structure, a developed stage which gives them firm basis that cannot be easily penetrated or shaken.

In the past, enemies have fallen prey as a result of their wrong assessment of the soundness of our economy and its capability for providing us with steadfastness in every way of life. Perhaps the abortive past plots which coincided with Camp David and which tried to penetrate our social structure by means of sabotaging the economy have proved that Syria's strength is stronger than any plot that aims at disintegrating Syria.

Syria, while standing in a long front line, has become a center of confrontation and an axis for the pan-Arab front of streadfastness and confrontation. Syria has also become a center for besieging any defeatist position and a national and pan-Arab potential. The capitulation of the ruling regime in Egypt could not bypass this potential nor forge ahead in the Arab homeland at the expense of the pan-Arab cause or the Palestinian issue.

Syria managed to shoulder a burden in the face of various foreign and local forces in Lebanon plotting against it while others failed to do so. Syria confronted Israel and its aggressive policy and expansionist designs everywhere.

Today we announce to the world at large with words that entail the meaning which should be understood from them that the Golan is a Syrian Arab land and nobody except Syria can make a decision on the Golan because Syria is the owner of rights and the land belongs to it. Since world security is important and since the security of this region directly affects the world security, it is needless to say that the situation is grave and that the Arabs must deeply realize the gravity of what is taking place, not only with regard to Syria but also with respect to them all, because Syria is in the forefront for confrontation and defense and will remain always so.

This is our stand and this is our cause and march: building and developing the social and economic resources; a strong national unity; a solid political stand in the face of enemies and constant preparations to confront any eventuality. There is nothing that can change Syria's will because this is the will of all the Arab masses. Our only option -- assembly and government -- is to forge ahead in the field of work and production armed with our plans and programs as well as with our political vigilance at this stage in order to create a better, stronger and lofty future because the future needs Syria and its strength.

Thank you. I hope that your debates on the government report will be a means to achieving a better course. Peace be with you.

MORE REPORTAGE ON FORD'S 'SECRET' GOLAN PLEDGE

TA231520 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 23 Dec 81

[Text] Four years ago Prime Minister Menahem Begin showed President Jimmy Carter a document of commitment by his predecessor, Gerald Ford, according to which Washington guaranteed not to harm Israel in its demand that it remain in the Golan Heights during political negotations with Syria. This has been reported by sources from the prime minister's office. Our correspondent, Razi Barqay, comments that, according to one of the versions, when he saw this, Jimmy Carter was shocked and blushed from shame. U.S. sources told our correspondent that, in the opinion of the United States, that commitment was valid only on condition that Israel took no unilateral move in the Golan Heights, such as annexation. President Ford's commitment was written on official White House paper and the then secretary of state, Henry Kissinger, helped to write it.

Additional Rabin Comments

TA231741 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 23 Dec 81

[Report by Knesset correspondent Razi Barqay -- live]

[Excerpt] Today sources in the prime minister's offices confirmed that Prime Minister Begin indeed showed President Carter the document [guaranteeing Israel's remaining on the Golan Heights during negotiations with Syria]. Those sources did not say what the U.S. President's reaction was, but an investigation of the details surrounding the document brings out the following findings. In September 1975 a letter was written on White House stationery, signed by President Ford, to then-Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin stating Ford's guarantee not to torpedo [letarped] the Israeli position of remaining in the Golan Heights if and when Israel and Syria meet at the negotiating table. The secretary of state at the time, Henry Kissinger, was let in on the secret commitment. Rabin does not today deny the existence of the document, but he told us: If there was such a commitment, I am not entitled to comment on it. In any event, Rabin added, the Americans have always understood that it is necessary for us to remain on the Golan Heights for security reasons.

[Begin recording] [Rabin] The basis of this position, which by the way, was also repeated by President Carter at a public news conference in May 1973 before he became president, served us as a means of achieving a certain understanding with the United States regarding Israel's freedom of maneuver and -- in the event that political negotiations for peace began with Syria -- our position on our freedom of political action concerning the Golan Heights.

[Barqay] Did President Ford commit himself to this in writing?

[Rabin] I have never, nor will I ever speak about specific matters whose existence has not yet been publicized; thus I will not refer to this or other commitments, apart from what I said at the beginning.

[Barqay] As prime minister, did you have grounds for assuming that the United States would not interfere with Israel during negotiations with Syria, while Israel demanded to remain in the Golan Heights?

[Rabin] I had grounds to assume that the United States understood what was unique in Israel's security problem regarding the Golan Heights. This was based on the talks I held in the United States, both when I was Israeli ambassador to the United States and prime minister. I believed we would have greater freedom of action in battle not to leave the Golan Heights. That does not mean the United States would have supported our remaining in all of the Golan Heights, as it exists today or before the Yom Kippur War.

[Barqay] To the best of your knowledge, has that act of annexing the Golan Heights harmed those understandings with the United States?

[Rabin] It is not inconceivable that it has. I cannot say this with certainty and it certainly does not make things better. [end recording]

Ford 'Spokesman' Comments

TA240617 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 24 Dec 81

[Text] A spokesman for former U.S. President Gerald Ford says he knows nothing about a story that Ford promised Israel that the United States would not ask for a withdrawal from the Golan Heights. The report was that this pledge was made to Yitzhaq Rabin when he was prime minister. The spokesman told reporter Alan Ben-'Ami that Ford does not usually respond to such items and, if he does, it is only after a careful check.

'Sources' Comment

TA240628 Jerusalem POST in English 24 Dec 81 p 1

[Article by POST political reporter Sarah Honig: "Doubts About U.S. Prompted Golan Law"]

[Text] There has lately been a "considerable problem of U.S. credibility," sources in the Prime Minister's Office said yesterday, explaining why Israel passed the Golan Law.

The sources confirmed that Israel has a document written by former U.S. President Gerald Ford in September 1975 promising American support for a continued Israeli presence on the Golan Heights even in the event of peace negotiations with Syria.

But Israel had to enact the Golan Law because "American actions and words lately have cast grave doubt on U.S. credibility. We are clearly behaving like one who has little faith in his partner," said one source. He confirmed that Prime Minister Menahem Begin made use of the document in his dealings with former U.S. President Jimmy Carter in 1977.

Labour MK Yitzhaq Rabin, who was prime minister at the time the Ford undertaking was given, told the Jerusalem POST yesterday, that while he was neither confirming nor denying its existence, he "personally had reached the conclusion that if negotiations with Syria take place, we will have American understanding for our demands not to get down from the Golan. I hope the latest legislation has not undermined this."

The sources in the prime minister's office said that the matter of the Golan is only briefly alluded to in the document, which is chiefly concerned with other aspects of the disengagement agreement with Egypt contracted at the time. The document had been secret and was not approved by the U.S. Congress. The story of its existence was deliberately leaked by opposition members with the aim of proving that there was no need for the Golan Law, the sources claimed.

They maintained that when Carter was shown the document, signed by his predecessor, on official White House stationery, he reddened with chagrin and was considerably displeased. However, other of the prime minister's aides could not confirm that Carter's attitude to the Ford promise was negative.

"There are all sorts of undertakings which the Americans are not keeping. They have no one to blame but themselves for the fact that we had to pass the Golan Law now. We often feel as if we are dealing with Saudi Arabia. The Americans often behave as if they are no more than the Saudis' spokesmen."

The sources brought the issue of the European participation in the Sinai multinational force as a case in point.

"The four European countries in question acted as if there is no Camp David agreement, quoted the Venice declaration and spoke of overseeing the IDF pullback from Sinai, which to their mind ought to serve as an example for what should happen in other territories held by Israel.

The U.S. chose not to react to this total rejection of the Camp David accords. Only when Israel threatened to veto European participation, did they agree to a joint declaration that the Europeans would join the force in accordance with the Camp David agreement.

"We had to literally force the Americans into this defence of the Camp David agreement of which they are co-signatories. Given this state of affairs, we thought it better to make it clear to all concerned that Israel will never concede the Golan. The Americans had better search their own souls as to why we distrust them at this point," one source said.

Rabin, in his comment, went back to the 1967 visit of Israel of Richard Nixon, before he was elected to the U.S. Presidency. Rabin recalled Nixon's press conference after a visit to the Golan in which Nixon declared that were he the Israeli premier, he would not give up the Heights even in the context of peace. In 1973 Jimmy Carter also visited the Golan (before he became president) and made a similar statement.

EBAN ON BEGIN'S ACTIONS, U.S.-ISRAEL TIES

TA221037 Jerusalem POST in English 22 Dec 81 p 10

[Abba Eban commentary: "Hot Words, Weak Nerves"]

[Text] Mr Begin inflicted undeserved intellectual humiliation on Israel and the Jewish people with his unrestrained tirade to the American ambassador on Sunday. It was an exercise of weakness and unsteady nerve. If the Labour Movement were to withhold its criticism it would be displaying not patriotism but cowardice.

It was the government's right to protest against the sanctions announced by the administration in Washington, even though they were fully predictable and any realistic Israeli Government should have taken them into account. The punitive approach is notoriously ineffective, and the principle of contractual integrity should have restrained the U.S. from any measure that could be interpreted as unilateral modification of agreements. But Israel governments and their representatives have a long tradition of protest; they have sometimes managed to convert protest into dignified and durable statements of Israel attitudes and predicaments. A strong case is prejudiced and degraded when it is expressed by invective instead of by reason. After his verbal confrontations with European statesmen and dissentient Jewish leaders in recent months, Mr Begin now puts his virulence to work in a "dialogue" with President Reagan and Secretary Haig.

It is quite possible to argue with Mr Reagan without comparing him, ridiculously, with an anti-Semitic British general who was disavowed by his own countrymen in the Second World War. Even more eccentric is Mr Begin's purple passage about the horrors of the inquisition! This was based on the nonsensical premise that the word "rescind" has some kind of theological association. Mr Begin was probably thinking of "recant." He has no obligation to have a precise knowledge of a foreign tongue, but in that case it might be seemly to avoid a parade of pseudoscholarship. To imply a connection between Alexander Haig and Torquemada takes protest beyond rationality into the realm of parody. To my relief, some Israeli humourists have seized their opportunities, and I hope that, Mr Begin, when he simmers down, will join the laughter.

It was unreasonable for Washington spokesmen to complain that the U.S. Government was not consulted about the Golan decision. The Israel Government was not consulted in any substantive sense, and it surely has a superior right even if it chooses abjectly to renounce it. Mr Begin took a personal decision to convert the peaceful, flourishing, untroubled Golan into a focus of regional and international tension, thus injuring the interests and hopes of Israeli settlers, and playing into the hands of our country's most implacable foes.

Eight members of the Labour Party gave their hands to this eccentric decision. This undoubtedly compromises the ability of the Labour Alignment to win the fullest public attention for criticizing the government's decision. But the unhappy events of 14 December do not annul three important contributions of the Labour Movement to Israel's cause in the Golan Heights:

-- A government headed by Labour took the decision to expel aggressive Syrian forces from the Golan fortifications;

-- The Labour Movement, not the Likud, constructed the impressive security and settlement system in the Golan;

-- A labor-led government concluded the disengagement agreement with Syria in May-June 1974, ending the inferno of bombardment and war, and inaugurating the golden era in the life of the Golan.

That agreement could well have served as a sufficient legal basis for Israel's legitimate control for as far ahead as anyone can see -- until the peace negotiation which we are committed to seek. Mr Begin and Mr Sharon did everything possible to prevent the conclusion of that agreement which has been saving Israeli lives for 7 years.

The vigorous and sober pursuit of dialogue with the United States with all its importance and urgency, is only the second of the national priorities. The first of them is a domestic clarification. How are crucial decisions taken; how are they applied and how are Israel policies expressed? If individual passions prevail over collective rationality we are in very grave peril.

POST TERMS BEGIN'S ACTIONS 'ABERRANT BEHAVIOR'

TA240619 Jerusalem POST in English 24 Dec 81 p 10

[Commentary by Yosef Go'el, member of Jerusalem POST editorial staff: "Strange Performance"]

[Text] Let me begin at the end. Events of the past few weeks seem to provide strong, cumulative evidence that the prime minister of Israel has crossed the fine line between rational, albeit extreme, behaviour and aberrant behaviour.

The enormity of such a charge demands that it be based on incontrovertible evidence. First though, let it be noted that the premier's egocentric performance does not invalidate the assumptions underlying his recent actions. To the contrary, three assumptions seem to have guided him, and they are persuasive:

-- The probability of peace with Syria is so remote and the possibility of a Syrian-held Golan Heights so dangerous that it is essential for any Israel Government to ensure permanent Israeli occupation of that strategically crucial area with its eventual incorporation into Israel.

-- There is no way to safeguard the north from a recurrence of PLO Katyusha and artillery shelling from southern Lebanon. Should this occur, the only step open to Israel would be to invade southern Lebanon -- one hopes without repeating the mistakes of the 1978 Litani campaign. The PLO bases must be destroyed and its forces decimated, however much Washington protests. This is in the interest of Israeli life, in the most literal sense, and that supercedes American interests. It is debatable whether that truth should be driven home to the Americans today or only when the retaliatory action become unavoidable.

Israel has reason to fear that the United States will scrap the Camp David peace process once all of Sinai is returned on April 25, 1982. This is a greater worry than the possibility of Egypt then reneging on the normalization process. There are many signs that Washington can hardly wait to revert to the Palestinian-oriented policy hotly pursued by the Carter administration in the fall of 1977 before As-Sadat changed the course of history.

Specifically because the months ahead are so fraught with danger for Israel, Begin's aberrant behavior is cause for concern. Consider the following:

Begin insisted on going ahead with the signing of an agreement on strategic cooperation that the Americans had stripped of any importance. One may see rationality in this but not in Begin's dispatching of Defence Minister Ari'el Sharon post-haste by helicopter from Hadassah Hospital to Ben-Gurion Airport to make a last minute European air connection lest the Americans change their mind in less than 24 hours.

This seems especially suspicious in view of Begin's petulant renunciation of the memorandum of understanding following Washington's punitive reaction to the Golan Law. Is it possible that he believed that the United States could be tricked into an agreement it did not want because for the moment the stars in the political heavens seemed to favour it?

Begin's behaviour at that time can perhaps best be described by the Yiddish term areinzumchapen -- to grab while the grabbin's good. He behaved the same way with the Golan bill.

The issue was not whether or not Israel should retain the Golan. The vast majority of Israelis agree on that. What has changed, one may ask, since December a year ago, when Begin himself opposed an identical bill tabled by Ge'ula Kohen for the very tactical reasons that he now sneers at. What happened, it seems all to clear, is that the premier, emerging from hospital on the day the Polish crisis erupted, jumped to the conclusion that the grabbin' was good, but only for 24 hours. Thus the Cabinet, astonished senior ministers and the entire Knesset were pressed into the service of his prophetic vision in a most unseemly manner.

Begin's assumption that the United States would respond to this step with mild protest, being too involved with Poland to act otherwise, is worse than regrettable. National leaders may be forgiven many aberrations and instances of poor judgement but not on such crucial issues. One cannot escape the conclusion that Begin believes that l'etat c'est moi. First there was his supphuric dressing-down of the U.S. Government via his "good friend" Ambassador Samuel Lewis. One is left blank about the connection between anti-Semitism and General Barker and the events of this week. And then there is Begin's insistence that he would brook no questioning of his "J'accuse" statement being published in full as though it were Cabinet policy. These two instances indicate that Begin is determined to personalize Israel's external, as well as its domestic, politics.

The first signs of a gross exaggeration of this tendency, which has always been part of Begin's psyche, was apparent in the last election campaign. He ran that campaign as though it were a contest between Menahem Begin and all comers. His repeated demonic attacks on the Labour opposition in the Knesset and the undisguised disdain he has for his own Cabinet are further distressing signs as is his repeated show of total disregard for the need to consult anyone in formulating major policy.

Finally there is the tenor of his public letter to HA'ARETZ columnist Yo'el Marcus, embarrassing in its self-indulgent details of his injury and sufferings.

None of what is written here can be put down to Begin-hating: It is painful to watch Begin come to such a pass. But there is greater anxiety in contemplating the implications for this country of an uncontrolled Prime Minister Begin in this emotional state.

In retracing the pattern of Begin's recent actions, one cannot but recall with concern certain historic parallels. Presidents Woodrow Wilson and Franklin Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill exhibited aberrant behavior that was known to small groups of their aides at the time, and only came to light years later.

The history of the 20th century has taught us that the idiosyncratic behavior of political leaders, and especially of charismatic personalities who succeed in stifling all dissent among their colleagues, can have shattering effects of the fate of their nations.

There are never easy answers to such a problem. The most that a justly concerned public can hope for is that some of its political leaders who are privy to the truth will screw up enough courage to put limits to the excesses of government by the unrestrained power of idosyncratic charisma.

HADDAD: SEVEN VILLAGERS KIDNAPPED IN S. LEBANON

TA221259 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 22 Dec 81

[Text] Major Sa'd Haddad, commander of the southern Lebanon militia, says that seven villagers from the enclave had been kidnapped. Haddad said his forces had detained some terrorists who were planning an attack. He thought the villagers had been kidnapped in retaliation and said the kidnapping was a clear violation of the cease-fire.

Haddad Threatens PLO

TA221510 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 22 Dec 81

[Text] Maj Sa'd Haddad has threatened measures against the PLO unless it releases seven Christian enclave inhabitants kidnapped by its men. Haddad did not specify what measures he would take. He claims that the seven were pulled out of their cars en route from the enclave to Beirut.

NEW WEST BANK SETTLEMENT ESTABLISHED 22 DEC

TA221840 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 22 Dec 81

[Text] A new settlement, Sa-Nur, was established in the Jordan valley this afternoon on the Nabulus-Janin central highway. The first families will be lodged temporarily in an old police station building in the center of the Sa-Nur basin, and in structures set up near it to absorb new nuclei.

Representatives from the national working youth organization said that four additional settlements would be established within the next 3 years to establish a strong bloc of settlements in the southern approaches of Janin.

FARUQ QADDUMI'S NEPHEW SENTENCED TO PRISON

TA231819 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 23 Dec 81

[Text] Today the military court on Lod sentenced Bashir Salim Qaddumi, the nephew of the head of the PLO Political Department, Faruq Qaddumi, to 2 years in prison. The younger Qaddumi was found guilty of belonging to Ahmad Jibril's terrorist organization. The judge, Col Aharon Halperin, said that the prosecution had taken into consideration the fact that Faruq Qaddumi himself had intervened in order to remove his nephew from terrorist activity and bring him back to the arms of his family in Jerusalem. Bashir Qaddumi discontinued his studies in Syria, came to Jerusalem and recruited another young man to Jibril's organization. That youth was also captured and sentenced today to 18 months in prison.

NINE STATES SIGN PREFERENTIAL TRADE TREATY

CA221142 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 21 Dec 81

[Text] Nine eastern and southern African countries today signed the preferential trade area [PTA] treaty to let them reduce their economic dependence as well as strengthen their links with other African countries. The treaty was signed by Kenya, Malawi, Mauritius, Uganda, Somalia and Zambia. The treaty was signed by four presidents -- from Kenya, Uganda, Somalia and Zambia and by heads of delegations from the other five countries.

President Kaunda remarked that great things were happening on the continent. Each leader of the nine countries that signed was given three copies of the treaty in English, French and Portuguese. No immediate explanation was given by the other countries that attended the conference but did not sign the treaty.

Zambia has been chosen as the headquarters of the PTA by the heads of state and government who today signed the historic PTA treaty. Meanwhile, President Kaunda has pledged that Zambia will do her best to provide the necessary infrastructure for the PTA Secretariat within her limited resources. The proposal to base the PTA in Lusaka was made today by Kenyan President and current OAU Chairman Mr Daniel arap Moi, who was seconded by the presidents of Uganda and Somalia, Milton Obote and Gen Mohamed Siad Barre respectively. President Moi said that Zambia has played a key role in the political liberation of the subregion and that proposing it as headquarters is also recognition of Dr Kaunda'a personal devotion to the cause of intra-African economic and political cooperation. In his closing remarks, Dr Kaunda said that Zambia will go all out to live up to the honor bestowed on her and called for unity of purpose and political will for the PTA to succeed. He said while there is a general trend for democratic and political groups in the world, for the people of the southern hemisphere such groupings are a matter of survival. He called on those states within the region who have not signed the treaty for various reasons to resolve their problems quickly and come into the fold for the benefit of (?the people).

ANGOP Report

AB221520 Luanda ANGOP in Portuguese 1130 GMT 22 Dec 81

[Text] Lusaka, 22 Dec (ANGOP) -- The treaty establishing a preferential trade area (PTA) of east and southern African states was signed today in Lusaka, capital of Zambia. The treaty, signed by 9 of the 18 PTA member states, has as its goals the future establishment of an African common market and, later, a subregional economic community.

President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia; the president of Kenya, representing the OAU; as well as the heads of state of Uganda and Somalia, Milton Obote and Mohamed Siad Barre; and Professor Adebayo Adededji, executive secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, ECA, spoke at the signing ceremony.

The Zambian president began by condemning imperialist attempts to prevent the realization of the PTA while calling on member countries to redouble their efforts to attain the objectives of the subregional grouping, which is an historic landmark in the realization of subregional economic integration and further constitutes an effective contribution to the establishment of a new international economic order. The Zambian head of state described the signing of the PTA treaty as a response to the urgent need of African countries to mobilize their efforts to resolve their economic problems and to establish the bases for the pooling of the natural and human resources of the eastern and southern subregion.

Speaking on the deterioration of the world economic situation to which the Ottawa conference, the so-called North-South meeting, the Cancun meeting and other international conferences failed to find an appropriate response as far as the aspirations of Third World countries are concerned, the Zambian head of state stressed the imperative need for African countries to address themselves to economic problems while paying special attention to the economic freedom of their peoples through the joint promotion of trade and economic development. In this connection, he considered the establishment of the PTA to be of paramount importance as it constitutes a basis for the restructuring of relations and for the promotion of exchanges among the countries of the subregion in agriculture, industry and others -- a significant step toward reducing dependence on the industrialized capitalist countries. Just as we fought for our political independence, we will fight for our economic independence, the Zambian president concluded during his opening speech at the PTA summit conference.

On the other hand, the OAU current chairman and head of state of Kenya expressed his support for the PTA member countries and hoped that the treaty now signed would constitute a basis for the future establishment of an African economic community in conformity with the resolutions of the lagos plan of action. To effectively achieve its objectives, said the OAU chairman, the treaty must be beneficial to the peoples of the region and help to promote advantageous regional cooperation. In this context, the Kenyan head of state proposed that the headquarters be established in Lusaka in recognition of the efforts made by the Zambian Government to further the cause of economic cooperation in the subregion.

At the session, which was addressed by the presidents of Uganda and Somalia, among others, Professor Adebayo Adededji ECA executive secretary delivered a significant speech in which he underlined the importance of the signing of the PTA treaty not only at the subregional, but also at the continental level.

With the signing of this treaty, Adebayo said, the countries of the subregion are taking a decisive step toward the establishment of a new system of economic relations which will help to reduce the economic dependence of the various countries and which constitutes a first phase toward the effective establishment of a common market in the subregion and an African economic common market.

The PTA treaty, added the ECA executive secretary, will strengthen the efforts for the achievement of a new world economic order for the people of the subregion who are determined to impede the subtle maneuvers of the former colonial powers who wish to perpetuate their economic domination of the African countries.

Adebayo stressed that the creation of the PTA will favor the adoption of a series of collective measures to eliminate the neocolonial tendency and to establish new bases for relations of equality and reciprocity between African and developed countries.

After describing economic cooperation as a dynamic process, the ECA secretary added that the articles and protocols of the treaty should be subject to amendment on the basis of the experience acquired by each member state. Consequently, in the course of its application, some of its provisions will have to be amended. Referring, in his closing remarks, to the penetration by the branches of monopolistic companies whose action helps to realize profits to the detriment of the agents of production and trade in the subregion, the ECA official urged the African countries of the PTA to adopt the guiding principle of applying the treaty in the genuine desire of effective, economic cooperation.

It should be mentioned that the official signing ceremony of the PTA was attended by the presidents of SWAPO and the ANC, Sam Nujoma and Oliver Tambo, who had been invited to the conference.

ALGERIA

APS COMMENTS ON U.S. SUPPORT FOR MOROCCO

LD231206 Algiers APS in Arabic 0830 GMT 23 Dec 81

[Text] Algiers, 23 Dec (APS) -- U.S. Senator Charles Percy, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, visited Morocco and the Western Sahara at his own request, according to the Western press. This visit by a prominent American figure comes after a visit to the Western Sahara by a senior American military delegation last October following the heavy Moroccan defeat at Guelta Zemmur.

It is becoming more and more apparent that the Reagan administration has chosen to supply concentrated military and financial aid to Rabat, thus encouraging it to continue its expansion policies in the Western Sahara. This attitude, which contradicts UN and OAU resolutions on the right of the Saharan people to self-determination and independence, responds to the Moroccan desire to internationalize the conflict at a time when Moroccan forces are subjected daily to heavy defeats at the hands of the Saharan fighters.

On the other hand, it is worth noting the obscurity of the Washington attitude which has up to now refused to recognize Moroccan sovereignty over the Western Sahara and allows officials and, what is more serious, even military personnel to visit the occupied territory of Saharan Democratic Arab Republic. This policy can only arouse the fears of the countries of the region which are eager to see peace and stability in the region. President Chadli Bendjedid has repeatedly said that Algieria, which does not bargain over its support for all the peoples struggling for liberation, works continuously for a positive policy of neighborly relations.

For his part, the president of Mauritania said Monday evening in Nouakchott that the current trend is toward internationalization of the Western Sahara conflict and it makes the prospects of a settlement of the conflict even more remote, and threatens peace and stability in the region and the interests of the warring parties. Finally, we can only show interest in the escalation of the conflict resulting from the American obligation toward the Rabat regime.

LIBYA

BENGHAZI DEMONSTRATORS DENOUNCE U.S. 'PLOTS'

LD231510 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 23 Dec 81

[Text] The Benghazi masses today came out in a big demonstration of anger and defiance to denounce the plots being hatched by U.S. imperialism against the Libyan Arab people and their historic leadership. The demonstrators affirmed their absolute adherence to the principles and objectives of the Great 1 September Revolution and their readiness to fight until death in defense of the great cultural changes that have been brought about by the Great 1 September Revolution and its commander.

The demonstrators also declared that the Libyan Arab people will not be intimidated by the U.S. fleets nor by its terroristic plots and provocations. They will rise with utmost courage to check the U.S. administration's arrogance and terrorism.

The thousands of demonstrators who filled the streets of Benghazi carried placards affirming the Libyan Arab people's ability and readiness to die for the sake of their revolution and its commander and its great achievements.

They chanted revolutionary slogans which included "God is great," "The storm will uproot reaction," "All my country's youth are ready to sacrifice themselves for the principles of the 1 September Revolution." The slogans also included: "Oh America, the 1 September Revolution is a colossal force" and "Cowboy Reagan, we will die rather than let you get to Mu'ammar."

As the demonstrators arrived at the Square of the Popular Congress of the Benghazi municipality, they set fire to an effigy of Reagan, the head of the U.S. administration, as an expression of their anger and wrath at the policy of terror and aggression being pursued against the freedom of the peoples and the obstruction and frustration of their ambitions and hopes.

The angry masses participating in this big demonstration issued a statement which read as follows:

The masses of the Great 1 September Revolution and their living revolutionary forces, which are confident of the inevitable victory of the people, today declares to all the freemen and honorable men of the world that the United States, the leader of world terrorism, wants our people to die. It also wants our nation to be annihilated. It wants to destroy our beliefs and Islamic and pan-Arab values.

The United States has come to defy and challenge our small people because they call for the freedom of man and for equality among peoples and because they say no to the usurpation of land of others and their occupation by force. The United States wants to starve our people because we consider it an honor to be martyrs in fighting the aggressors and usurpers. The United States is the enemy of mankind. It wants to place our people in subservience and to humiliate and subdue them, so that it can pass its capitulationist solutions against the Arabs and so that it can carry out its terroristic strategy against the Arab homeland.

The United States is the aggressor and usurper. It is behind all attempts to humiliate and insult our Arab people. It does not want us to live on the face of the earth. It does not want us to build up our strength and to take a neutral stand and to refrain from giving support to the causes of liberation and from siding with the small and oppressed peoples. It is trying to intimidate us. It stands against us. It mobilizes all its capabilities in order to make us submit to its wishes.

This is the U.S. administration, the administration of terror and arrogance. It is the murderer of peoples and the one that committed inhuman crimes at Hiroshima, in Vietnam, Latin America, Palestine, Iran, Egypt, Syria, Lebanon and all parts of the world.

Our people today take a stand of defiance and pride against the Reagan administration and its agent symbols. They are capable of resisting all the pressures. Thanks to their living revolutionary forces, our people are prepared to die and be martyred in order that the Jamahiriyah can remain proud and dignified, so that our people can remain proud and great and so that our nation will not submit to the defeatist and capitulationist solutions.

The statement affirms the following:

1. Our people, who resisted the invading fascist Italians over 30 years ago, without any oil resources or capabilities, declare their complete readiness to abort any attempt aimed at detracting from their dignity and pride. They will counter challenge with challenge and will refuse everything except dying while standing in the battlefield of honor and martyrdom.

2. As they declare their defiance and their readiness to fight and be martyred, our people realize the dimensions of the plot, starting with the defunct As-Sadat aggression, through the aggression of the U.S. Sixth Fleet against the Gulf of Sidra to the attempts at economic blockade and the recall of U.S. citizens.

3. Our people are fully aware of the plots and attempts being perpetrated by the hidden fingers of the Reagan administration to use its symbols and agents to accomplish its aggressive objectives against the people of the Jamahiriyah who will cut off all criminal hands.

4. By their faith, our people will crush the plots around them, will impose their existence on their soil whatever the challenges, and will affirm their readiness to crush all attempts opposed to the authority of the people.

5. Our proud people declare to the whole world that they will continue to adhere to their principled strategic stands.

6. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi constitutes the conscience of the Arab nation. He is the expression of its will and the symbol of the revolution. He is the face of the revolution that never dies.

The statement affirmed that the forces of the revolution, as it comes out in this popular demonstration, assert their revolutionary adherence to all the principles and immortal ideas and declare that our struggling people will remain the deterrent force in the arena of confrontation between the Arab nation, on the one hand, and the imperialist forces and their feeble symbols.

The masses participating in the demonstration of wrath and defiance in the Benghazi municipal area, cabled the brother commander saying: The masses of the Benghazi municipal area, who have come out today in a demonstration of anger and defiance, having realized the dimensions of the filthy plot being hatched by U.S. imperialism and its agents, declare to you that they will remain, as always, faithful to the Great September Revolution and its commander and principles. They declare that they accept the challenges and will not be intimidated by the threats and plots of America. They are fully ready to fight and defeat the enemies. They also declare their adherence to the authority of the people and their determination to continue to defend it until death and to march forward with the commander in order to raise high the banners of freedom and bolster the pan-Arab struggle and build the socialist society.

JANA INTERVIEWS UN OFFICIAL ON U.S. POLICY

LD231916 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1640 GMT 23 Dec 81

[Excerpts] Washington, 23 Dec (JANA) -- Current UN General Assembly Chairman 'Ismat Kittani has expressed astonishment at the hysterical campaign which the Reagan administration has been launching against the Jamahiriyah and the lies and rumors which the American information media have been fabricating against the people of the Jamahiriyah.

In an interview with the JANA correspondent at the United Nations, Kitanni said that he does not know the purpose of this unjust hysterical campaign against the Jamahiriyah. Indeed, he said, U.S. public opinion itself does not understand the purpose for which the administration has been waging this campaign.

Kittani also spoke of the role the U.S. administration has been playing in obstructing the implementation of the UN resolutions against the Zionist enemy and its role in preventing the international community from adopting deterrent measures against the enemy. In this regard he spoke of the U.S. delegate's stand against the imposition of deterrent sanctions against the Zionists after their attack on the Iraqi nuclear reactors, thus forcing the UN Security Council to content itself with condemnation of the attack only. The American administration's exploitation of the veto to obstruct UN resolutions is frustrating. The United States, he added, will continue to use the veto and threaten to use it to prevent the adoption of any resolution against the Zionist enemy until the policy of veto is changed.

LIBYAN-SRV TALKS BEGIN; OPENING STATEMENTS MADE

LD241016 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 24 Dec 81

[Text] Tripoli, 24 Dec (JANA) -- The Libyan-Vietnamese meetings began yesterday evening at the Foreign Liaison Office in Tripoli and were attended by the secretary of the People's Committee for Public Services, Vietnamese Vice Chairman Pham Hung and a number of experts and technicians.

At the beginning of the meeting, the secretary of the People's Committee for Public Services welcomed the guests. He paid tribute to the role of the friendly Vietnamese people in the struggle against U.S. imperialism and their decisive victory over colonialism. He also paid tribute to Vietnam's firm stands in support of the Arab nation and its just causes.

The Vietnamese vice chairman denounced the terroristic campaign being waged by the Reagan administration against the Jamahiriyah aimed at harming this people's gains and achievements which were realized through the Great Fatih Revolution. He paid tribute to cooperation between the two countries which is making positive steps forward. He said the Vietnamese people admire and appreciate all aid given by the friendly Libyan people. He also expressed admiration for the progress being made in the Jamahiriyah in various fields.

It was decided that this meeting should mark the beginning of the first session of the Libyan-Vietnamese mixed committee. Technical committees were set up to study and discuss the strengthening of cooperation in economic, technical and scientific fields in the common interest.

CHAD

GUNT REFUSES TO NEGOTIATE WITH HISSEIN HABRE

AB231930 Paris AFP in French 1747 GMT 23 Dec 81

[Text] Ndjamena, 23 Dec (AFP) -- Any external aid for Chad which is linked with the opening of negotiations with Hissein Habre will be rejected, it was learned on Wednesday at the end of an extraordinary Ministerial Council meeting in Ndjamena.

According to the communique of the council, which was convened on Tuesday by Chadian head of state Goukouni Oueddei, some circles are trying to suggest a possible negotiation between the Transitional National Union Government of Chad, GUNT, and the [words indistinct]. Justifying its refusal to negotiate with Hissein Habre, the GUNT recalls that the FAN leader as well as two of his aides -- Idriss Miskine and Michel Foud, were sentenced last June by the special criminal court of Ndjamena. The GUNT does not want to reverse this sentence and negotiate with persons tried and sentenced by Chadian courts, the communique continues. The GUNT reaffirms, however, that with the exception of these three members of the FAN, the rest enjoy the amnesty decreed last February [words indistinct]. The communique also emphasizes the importance of the head of state's coming visit to the Sudan, the date of which is not yet known.

Meanwhile, following the trip of Minister of Health Garadoum Monn-Djasngar and Minister of Public Works Dr Facho Balaam to Romania and Yugoslavia, the communique of the Council of Ministers indicates that these countries have shown their readiness to cooperate with Chad. A consignment of medical supplies and clothes is expected soon in Ndjamena as part of the emergency aid from Yugoslavia which has even expressed the desire to open an embassy in Chad. The communique also adds that Belgrade and Bucharest promised the GUNT envoy to persuade countries supplying aid and assistance for the rebellion to stop doing so.

Finally, official sources in Ndjamena affirm that a Romanian mission will go to Chad in the second half of January.

ZAIRE

ZAIRE-IVORY COAST COMMISSION MEETING ENDS 21 DEC

AB220711 Kinshasa Domestic Service in French 0600 GMT 22 Dec 81

[Text] The Zairian-Ivorian joint commission meeting ended yesterday evening. The Zairian and Ivorian sides concluded a general cooperation agreement embracing the economic, technical, scientific, social and cultural sectors. They also signed an agreement on the creation of the great Zairian-Ivorian joint cooperation commission, on an educational and cultural convention, as well as agreements in higher studies and trade.

The next session will be held in the Ivory Coast in 1983.

ZAIRE-ANGOLA COMMISSION BEGINS SECOND SESSION

AB221717 Kinshasa Domestic Service in French 0600 GMT 22 Dec 81

[Text] While the joint Zaire-Ivory Coast commission ended yesterday, another one, the joint Zaire-Angola commission, began its second session. This commission is expected to evaluate all areas of cooperation between Luanda and Kinshasa with the view to finding ways and means of surmounting the weaknesses and the insufficiencies observed by the two sides.

BENIN

POLITICAL BUREAU ACTS AGAINST TEACHERS UNIONS

AB232138 Cotonou Domestic Service in English 2030 GMT 23 Dec 81

[Text] An extraordinary meeting of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the People's Revolutionary Party of Benin was held the day before yesterday in Cotonou. At the meeting, which was presided over by President Mathieu Kerekou of Benin, the participants decided that disciplinary measures be taken against those who organized and endorsed an illegal trade union christened as the National Union of Teachers of Benin. This is because the creation of such an illegal union allegedly cuts across the general party line.

The Political Bureau [words indistinct] directed that such union should cease to exist with immediate effect because it is not recognized by the People's Revolutionary Party of Benin.

Another issue which engaged the attention of the participants in the extraordinary session last Monday is related to the current deplorable trade union situation that exists in our post primary institutions and in our institutions of vocational training. In this connection, the Political Bureau has decided to dissolve the National Union of Secondary School Teachers and the National Union of Vocational Training Staff. The dissolution of teachers union was because their leaders did not perform up to expectations.

LIBERIA

DOE GRANTS AMNESTY, LIFTS CURFEW FOR HOLIDAYS

AB231847 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 1600 GMT 23 Dec 81

[Speech to the nation on the occasion of Christmas delivered in Monrovia by head of state Doe on 23 December -- recorded, intercepted in progress]

[Text] It opens a new chapter in the history of our revolution, it now declares to the world a general or complete amnesty for all political prisoners, throughout the country, held since 12 April of 1980. [applause] These include the remaining 19 political prisoners held since 12 April of last year. We are also extending executive clemency to 7 persons who are either convicted or awaiting trial for murder and have served for more than 25 to 36 years in prison. The commanding general and the minister of justice are to effect this decision without delay. In the meantime, the People's Redemption Council [PRC] hereby declares general amnesty to all Liberians living in exile anywhere and the abolition of the wanted list. [applause] The only exceptions are former Vice President Bennie Warner and Clarence L. Simpson Jr whose status will be determined in the future by the council. Whatever acts those in exile may have committed against the people of Liberia, whether physically or verbally, are all forgiven and they are invited to return home immediately. [applause] The status of their property will be determined upon their return. Those who have returned, including Mr Joseph Richards, Mr George Padmore and Mr William E. Dennis Jr, will attest to the sincerity of our government in welcoming Liberians back home. [applause]

Ladies and gentlemen, we have all reasons to praise God for our country, still a land of virtual liberty, peace and happiness. So, as we enjoy this season let us pray that God will grant unto your children, the members of the PRC, the wisdom and courage to lead this nation to a greater destiny.

We want you to realize that we did not come to perpetuate military rule. We have no intention to outlive our usefulness. However, our conscience dictates that we cannot inherit a barren and deprived nation and give it back to the people worse than we met it. What we need, we need to balance our budget, we need to build schools, road, clinics and hospitals, housing for civilians and men and women in arms. We have used every means possible to improve our economy. However, the global economic decline is hampering the rapid implementation of our goals.

We therefore use this occasion to once again appeal to our traditional friends to come to our rescue in these critical times. As close friends of Liberia, we urge the following nations to commit to the Liberian economy in the manner following: the United States of America -- 1 billion dollars [applause], the European Economic Community -- 1 billion dollars [applause], Japan and South Korea -- half a billion dollars. [applause] We ask that this commitment be made in the form of outright grants, long-term loans and proper investment in agriculture, education, health and industrial development to stimulate our economy. The sooner we can (?realize) true signs of rapid and sustained progress, the sooner we are prepared to return to the barracks. As a consequence of our plan to return this country to constitutional rule, giving consideration to national development as well as creating a constitutional and a stable political atmosphere for such transition, we hereby pledge to hand over authority to a civilian government on 12 April 1985, the 5th anniversary of our revolution. [applause] We feel that during the next 3 years we could have become sufficiently convinced that a government by the people, of the people and for the people should emerge.

It is now the responsibility of all true Liberians to suppress their political motive until the PRC removes the ban on political activities to pave the way for a new civilian government. [applause] We need not re-emphasize what will happen to those caught in political activities before the inauguration of party politics.

Ladies and gentlemen, shortly after the establishment of our government on 12 April 1980, we took a number of measures designed to secure stability in the nation and protect the interest of the revolution. We have abolished many of those measures as our government has matured.

In order to curb student unrest in our schools and compel them to devote more time to their studies, the council has decided to abolish all student parties on campuses. [applause] A student representative, based on his character, ability and leadership characteristics will be selected by faculties to coordinate student activities with the faculties on each campus. There shall be no political activities in our schools. [applause]

My fellow citizens and partners in progress, we are being heavily burdened by a past structure which we must amend now to help bring relief to our people. As conditions improve, we shall again review the tax policy to improve some of the hardships of our people. In view of this concern, we have agreed on the following reduction in the reconstruction tax:

1. 2 percent reduced to 1 percent.
2. 5 percent reduced to 4.5 percent.
3. 8 percent reduced to 7.5 percent.
4. 10 percent reduced to 8 percent.

We believe that if we can maximize our revenue collection methods, control expenditure, improve tax administration, we can offset the loss that will come from these reductions. We are also introducing a national identification scheme aimed at registering all Liberians and non-Liberians residing in our nation. This means that each person in Liberia, regardless of age or nationality, will pay $5 per annum for his identification card. [applause] This system is designed to provide other revenues and give our citizens in the rural areas an opportunity to contribute to the development of their country.

In a relatively few hours, we shall be entering into [words indistinct] occasion, the birth of Lord Jesus Christ. This is certainly a time for great and joyous happiness. In this spirit therefore, the council has decided to suspend the curfew for Christmas and New Year's Eve effective throughout the nation. [long, loud applause] During this period, it is hereby ordered that members of the army or police not on assignment found wearing uniforms and carrying guns will be immediately stripped of their uniforms, discharged from the army and sent to Belle Yella for 5 years. [applause] The chief of staff and minister of justice are to ensure the enforcement of this order.

In conclusion, my fellow citizens, let me restate the wishes and desires of the PRC. We want no more political prisoners and we can say with pride that as of today Liberia may be the only country in Africa and one of the few nations in the world without political prisoners. [applause] In continuation of our reconciliation process, we hereby declare the unfreezing of all accounts of former political detainees and other citizens effective immediately. [applause] The banking institutions are to take due notice of this decision and act accordingly. It is also the decision of the council that paramount and clan chiefs who are members of the Armed Forces of Liberia must immediately return to the Ministry of Defense for reassignment. [applause] They are to be replaced by the traditional elders of the area who understand and respect traditional ways of life of the people in these areas. [applause]

My fellow citizens, as we review conditions in the nation, we come to realize that there are certain situations the military government just cannot tolerate: strikes, student unrest and political activities on campuses. We therefore urge all labor leaders and workers to condition themselves to become a force of unity rather than [word indistinct], and of construction rather than destruction. We must declare in no uncertain terms that political activities in the country will not at all be tolerated. We want no more exiles, instead we want a return of the exiles to their native land bringing investment, bringing a willing heart and an open mind to build a new nation. We want no more harassment, but our people must live among their redeemers as true sons and daughters of Liberia. [applause] We want no more liars; backbiters; deceitful, distorted people who only deter the progress of our nation. [applause] We must be a truthful and sincere people. [applause] We want no more tribalism nor socialism for they are great obstacles to a strong and dynamic nation. [applause]

Finally my sisters and brothers, I want you to meditate for a few moments on the prayers of helping the country [words indistinct]. We do not have to (?attend) in boats and canoes. You should come back home, my countrymen who are living in other lands. Come let us all together build a noble nation. [applause] To you who have remained the true sons and daughters of the revolution, please join me to continue to work hard, to believe in ourselves with confidence in our leaders and in cooperation with all of our partners in progress to build a new nation based on peace, liberty and friendly understanding. May God bless all of us and let our citizens [words indistinct] as one. In the cause of the people, the struggle continues! [applause]

Asks for Increased Aid

AB221943 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 1900 GMT 22 Dec 81

[Text] The Liberian head of state, Samuel Doe, today appealed to 11 Western and Asian ambassadors in Monrovia to intensify the level of their countries' financial assistance to Liberia for its economic recovery.

Commander in Chief Doe met with the ambassadors at the executive mansion, Monrovia, and told them that since the military came to power in 1980, the government had strived to bring economic development to our people, but he added that program required more (?aid). Head of state Doe cited the construction of housing units for soldiers which he said has a priority program expected to be completed by June 1983. He said if the military did not have barracks to occupy, it would be difficult for the country to return to civilian rule. Head of state Doe also spoke of his government's desire to do something for the Liberian people in the areas of (?standard) market board, adequate medical care, scholarships and training programs as well as logistics for the military and para-military forces.

JACKSON DOE NAMED ADVISER TO HEAD OF STATE

AB181005 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 0625 GMT 18 Dec 81

[Text] Head of state Commander in Chief [CIC] Samuel K. Doe has appointed Jackson F. Doe as adviser to the head of state on national and international affairs, with the advice and consent of the People's Redemption Council. Making the appointment in Sanniquellie at the end of the meeting with the people of Nimba County on the future of Liberia, CIC Samuel Doe said the appointment of past government officials to advisory positions was aimed at creating an opportunity for genuine participation of all Liberians in the improvement of the country. Jackson Doe expressed thanks and appreciation to the head of state and the PRC for the preferment and promised to uphold the confidence reposed in him by the government.

NIGERIA

POLISH ENVOY URGES MAINTENANCE OF RELATIONS

AB231551 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 23 Dec 81

[Text] The Federal Government has been urged to maintain its cordial relations with the Polish Government despite the crisis in the country. The appeal was made at a news conference in Lagos today by the Polish ambassador to Nigeria, Witold Jurasz.

Dr Jurasz said Nigeria is playing an important role in the search of peace in Poland, which is now under martial law. He however warned Western countries not to interfere in the internal affairs of the country. The ambassador explained that since the crisis broke out in his country 16 months ago, the United States have stopped granting aid to Poland.

DEATH, DAMAGE REPORTED IN KANO STATE CLASH

AB221529 Lagos NAN in English 1445 GMT 22 Dec 81

[Text] Kura (Kano State), 22 Dec (NAN) -- Property worth about 273,000 naira were destroyed during the recent clash between supporters of the Peoples Redemption Party (PRP) in Kura in the Kura local government area of Kano State, a member of the state assembly, Malam Musa Mallam, said at the week-end.

Briefing the state deputy governor, Alhaji Abdu Dawakin Tofa, who had gone to Kura to sympathise with the people, Oalam Musa said that a man was killed and several others were injured during the clash. He said that two buses and the party's office were also burnt.

In a speech, the deputy governor appealed to the people to live in peace despite their different political views.

On the alleged move by some people to disrupt the work of the Hadeja-Jamaare River Basin Development Authority, Alhaji Abdu told them that if the project was discontinued, it would be a loss to the people of Kura and the state.

SENEGAL

DIOUF BRIEFS MINISTERIAL COUNCIL 22 DEC

AB222156 Dakar Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 22 Dec 81

[Excerpts] The Ministerial Council met this morning under the chairmanship of the head of state. In his report, the head of state first of all mentioned the conference of the heads of state of member states of the West African Economic Community, the nonaggression and defense aid agreement and the West African Monetary Union, held in Dakar from 14 to 15 December 1981. The head of state expressed satisfaction over the positive results of the various summits which enable member states to strengthen their solidarity, and whose objectives tend to favor the realization of African unity.

The head of state then expressed the Senegalese Government's and his own satisfaction about the results of the friendly working visit of President Dawda Jawara to Dakar on 17 December 1981, during which the treaty creating the confederation of the Senegambia was signed by the Gambian and Senegalese heads of state.

The president also informed the council about the talks he had with President Bernardo Vieira, the Guinea-Bissau head of state, during his technical stopover in Dakar on 17 December. In this regard, the president stressed the desire of the Governments of Guinea-Bissau and Senegal to work toward the consolidation of the friendly cooperation existing between the two countries.

The head of state also informed the council about the audience he granted to Gen Vernon Walter, roving ambassador and special envoy of President Ronald Reagan of the United States of America. On this subject, the head of state indicated that his talks with General Walter centered on bilateral cooperation between the United States and Senegal and the international situation, and stated that the United States and Senegal were determined to do everything for the consolidation of American-Senegalese cooperation.

Speaking about the audience he had with Jacques Hodoul, Seychelles minister of foreign affairs, and bearer of a personal message from President France Albert Rene, the head of state indicated that the Senegalese and Seychelles Governments are determined to strengthen their bilateral cooperation.

On the situation in the Middle East, the head of state expressed the Senegalese Government's, the people's and his own condemnation of the Israeli Government's decision to annex the Golan Heights. In this regard, the president renewed the Senegalese people's and their government's solidarity with the Syrian Arab Republic, the Arab peoples in general and the Palestinian people in particular under the leadership of their sole and legitimate representative -- the PLO.